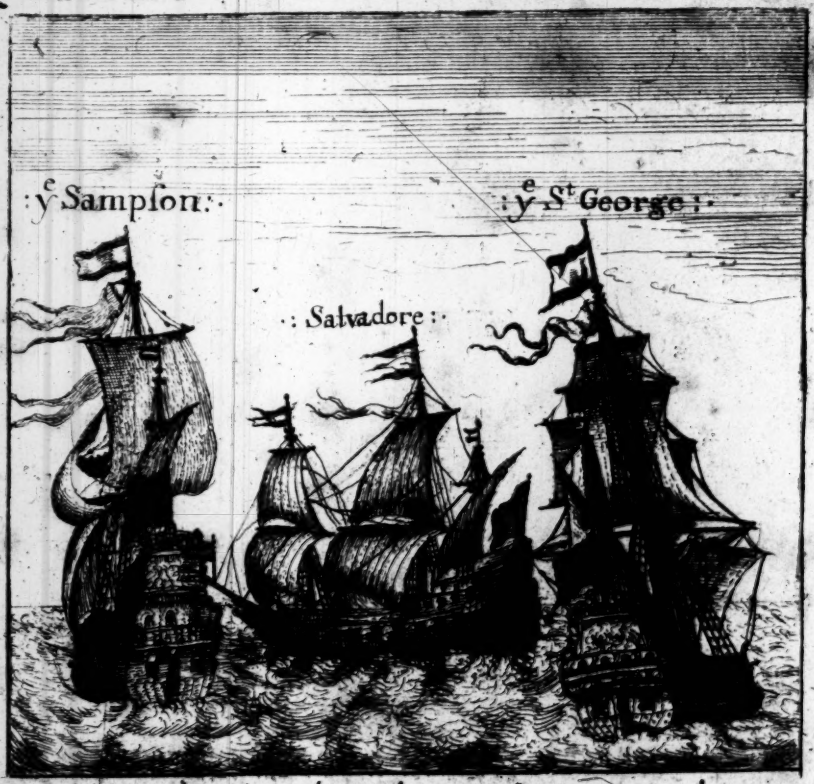
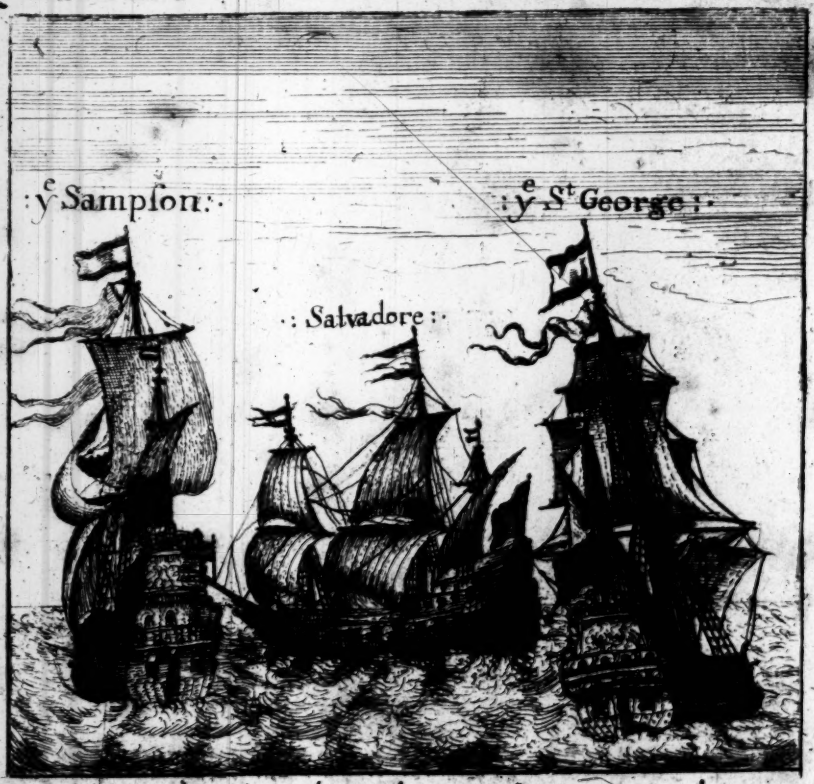


Theſe Silver-ships brought treaſure to our ſhore
Two hundred ſeventie thouſand pounds and more;
Color'd by Flemish *and by* Spanish *Claimes;*
The Fraud's diſcover'd, Violet *ſpoiles ye games*
By ſeaſonable Proteſt, when Great Ones did decree.
Toth' Nation's Dammage, to haue ſet them free
Reward is due: o let it not bee ſaid
The Worke is don; But Workman never paid.

:Tho Violet:



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:Tho Violet:

A TRUE NARRATIVE OF THE PROCEEDINGS In the Court OF Admiraltie,

Againſt the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, their Silver and Lading.

AND

An Accompt preſented what Silver was taken out of the ſaid Ships, and coined in the Tower, (being above two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds,) all which Silver the Common-wealth got by the chargeable Proſecution and Diſcovery of *Tho. Violet*, who ſaved the Common-wealth this Silver, *Dec.* 16. 1652.

As in this Narrative is Atteſted under the Hands of many Honourable Perſons.

Together with ſeveral Humble Propoſals, for the Profit and Honour of this Common-wealth, in ſaving them many ſcore of thouſand pounds, 1. By making an Act againſt tranſporting Gold and Silver, 2. Againſt the culling and melting down the heavy currant Coines of the Nation. By removing the Obſtructions of the Mint, and wayes propounded to make the Mint conſtantly coyn money. 4. For the juſt and due Regulation of the Manufactures of gold and ſilver Lace to prevent the daily cheats put upon the Wearers. 5. And for the making of a publick Copper Farthing, and a great Revenue propounded to be monethly paid out of the ſame for the relief of the maimed Soldiers: And ſeveral other Particulars humbly repreſented to the Parliament and Councel of State.

By *THO. VIOLET* of *London*, Goldſmith.

Deut. 24. 14, 15. *Thou ſhalt not oppreſſe an hired Servant, that is poor and needie, whether he be of thy brethren, or of the ſtrangers that are in thy land within thy Gates.*

Ver. 15. *At his day thou ſhalt give him his Hire, neither ſhall the Sun go down upon it, for he is poor, and ſetteth his heart upon it, leſt he cry againſt thee to the Lord, and it be ſinne unto thee.*

LONDON, Printed *Anno Dom.* 1659.

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To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

John Lord *Bradshawe*, Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal of *England*, *Tho.* Lord *Fairfax*, Maj. Gen. *Lambert*, Sir *Arthur Heselrigge*, Sir *Henry Vane*, Sir *James Harington*, Lieut. Gen. *Ludlow*, Lord *Whitlock*, Lieut. Gen. *Fleetwood*, *Josiah Barners* Esq. Coll. *Morley*, *Tho. Scot* Esq. Col. *Sydenham*, *Henry Nevill* Esq. *Tho. Chaloner* Esq. All of them of the most honourable Councel of State.

May it please your Honours,

IT is a curious Art to make a Watch, and he must be a skilful Artist, that exactly sets a broken Bone, God for the sins of this Nation, hath several times in this Age, took the Clock of this Common-wealth in pieces, and many of the pins and wheels have bin and are misplaced. It now requires great skill, to place and set every thing in its due order.

Your Honours have a great work to do, God hath broken us in pieces, and divided our Councels, and none can unite us, but he that hath wounded us, he only must cure us, and bless and sanctifie all lawful means, or

elſe our disjoynted bones will never be truly knit, or exactly ſet.

For this end hath God apointed a ſelect number of honourable perſons, of which number your Honours are Members, whoſe heart God hath fixed for this great Work, to revive the ſtones out of the heap of rubbiſh, and to build the Walls of our *Jeruſalem*, though the *Sanballats*, *Arabians* and *Ammonites* be wroth, and conſpire altogether to fight againſt *Jeruſalem*, to hinder this VVork.

Right Honourable, if you will finiſh this good VVork you have begun, you muſt do as *Nehemiah* did, keep good watch day and night, becauſe of your enemies, leſt your adverſaries ſerve you, as they ſerved *Nehemiah*, for they ſay you ſhall not know nor ſee till we come in the midſt amongſt them, and ſlay them, and cauſe the work to ceaſe, if this be not prevented, this Parliament will have a fatal end.

Preſidents in Courts of Juſtice is a great Guide to all juſt Judges, eſpecially when they have been made by the Grave and Learned,

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and are recorded in the Sacred Bible, the chiefest Book that every good Statesman walks by; such Statesmen that walks by *Machiavels* rules, the wicked *Maximes* of these troublesom times, they do as *Saul* did when he left God, and went to the VVitch of *Endor*, he pretended to go to speak with *Samuel*, and met with the devil, so these times have produced many a Fast, the pretence hath bin to seek God and Peace, when the true end hath bin to get to be the Head of a Party and Faction, to make division, and to get the Peoples money: The People are now very well acquainted with such canting, and as we know after a flash of lightning, there comes a clap of thunder, so hath it many times fallen out, after Fasts hath followed an erecting of an High Court of Justice, or one remarkable oppression or other.

I humbly present you here in this Epistle, with a good President made by a great Statesman *Nehemiah*, such a one as God hath recorded was a Saviour of his Countrey, a Builder up of *Jerusalem*, in the like case, and

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in the like ſtraits as it is now, or ſuddenly without Gods infinite mercy will be vvith us, he took this courſe. In the firſt place, he ſought God, and prayed before the God of Heaven, and did not make a mock-Faſt; then he uſed the means, he fell to his VVork, and built up the walls of *Jeruſalem*, and did not only build, but he built wiſely and politickly, and had there bin a *Sanballat* found amongſt them, the people would have ſtoned him.

On the lovver places behind the vvall, and on the higher places, he ſet the people after their families, vvith their ſvvords, their ſpears and their bovves; and vvhen he had ſet himſelf in a poſture of defence, he made the people to be his Guard, and delivered an Oration to the Rulers and People, ſaying, *Be not afraid of your enemies, remember the Lord which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your ſonnes and your daughters, your wives and your houſes.*

I ſhall humbly deſire your Honours to obſerve, vvhat vvas the effect of this orderly

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and good posture. *Nehemiah* and his people did not their work carelessely and by halfes, and spent their precious time in needlesse questions, but did all things upon sound advice. For when great things are quietly without Faction disputed, and the Result concluded; then to use expedition and resolution is just policie.

But all hasty and unadvised attempts at long running brings the Common-wealth into great danger, and the Actors generally into contempt and misery, many men in their designes thinking to catch a great Fish, but after long angling bring up a Frog; this daily experience hath shewed, and I can experimentally say it to be true.

For those men that read *Machiavel*, and make it their Rule to walk by, in stead of the Bible, because they are in great places, to practice Iniquity by a Law, as *Ahab* did for *Naboths* Vinyard, who did not only cheat him of his Land and Inheritance, but robbed him of his Life, and to seem holy called a Fast, the effect of that godly Fast was to set two

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mens ſonns of *Belial*, to beare falſe witneſſe that *Naboth* had Bſaſphemed God and the King, ſending a warrant for the Execution of innocent *Naboth* before ever they tryed him, that he ſhould be ſton'd to death right or wrong, what a ſad End the Authors of this murder and robbery come to is well known, how many great and Noble Perſons of the eminenteſt for quality in this Nation, have bin Trappaned and perjured out of their Lifes, Lands and Eſtates, and ſome of the witneſſes upon their Death beds with horrour of Conſcience, and great Remorſe have confeſſed the perjury that they were ſuborned by others, to the great ſcandal of the Juſtice of the Nation by ſuch waies to get mens Eſtates.

This is moſt apparent God is comming to viſit for theſe things, and when man cannot bring the Delinquents to Juſtice, he cauſeth the guilty Perſons one to puniſh another, till by the dividing and ſubdividing they are ſo weak, that as the flood cam upon the old world and deſtroyed mankinde, ſo by theſe diviſions

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the ſtrength of the Nation is disjoynted. Every man upon and againſt his Neighbour, making a paſſage and way for the common Enemy to come and ſwallovv the Innocent with the guilty, if God be not mercifull.

Moſes divided the Red-Sea, and the Children of Iſrael paſſed over on dry Land, God hath by nature made a Sea betvveen us and our Neighbours, he hath hedged us in, and made a vvall of ſeperation between us and Popery, but our ſins at this day are pluck. ing down this wall, the wilde Bore of the Forreſt is come in amongſt us, the Devil and the Jeſuites have plaid their parts in this Nation, to the ruining of many mans Body and Soul, and to the admiration of Chriſtendom, the Jewes Crucified Chriſt thinking to gratifie *Cæſar*, *Cæſar* a few years after paid them to purpoſe for Crucifying him.

May it pleaſe your Honours, The ten Commandements and Fonts for chriſtning of children at the beginning of theſe Troubles were plucked down; and now comes Pulpits to be beaten in pieces, and frequent tumults in ſeveral Churches

within the city of London, as lately at Aldgate-pariſh hath bin done, which is a corner of the city, where many poor live, and are fit for any Inſurrection.

When I ſee children with a candle amongſt powder or chips, I feare the burning of the houſe, or a blow with powder; when wee ſee the buds appeare, the ſpring is near: theſe are as certaine ſignes of a miſchief; as the plague-tokens are to a man that hath the Plague, the beſt ſymptomes are a purple fever; a ſhaking, an earth-quake, if not a diſſolution. The pride and vanity of ſome Lecturers and Miniſters, who in the Nation having ſtudyed points of diſſention and diviſion, in ſtead of the Goſpel of Chriſt preach themſelves, (too much plenty have made them wanton.)

No doubt but ſome of them do it with the advice of the Ieſuits to make a ſeparation in Countryes, Cities, Townes, Pariſhes and Families, till without Gods infinite mercy, the Ieſuits bring a deſtruction both on the Churches and houſes of the Nation, and on this Great Citie of London, and ſet every man to cut one anothers throats. Would not the end of theſe things bring

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an unhappy deformation, in stead of a blessed Reformation, when we are exposed to the fury of a forein Enemy by the vileness of the Iesuits, and folly of our own Divisions?

What a divelish State trick vvas put upon the late Protector *Oliver*, and his Secretary Mr. *Thurloe*, by Sir *Kenelm Digby*, and several other Persons Jesuitically inclined, in setting the Protector on that fatal businesse of *Hispaniola* and *Jamaica*, without ever advising and consulting with many of the *English* Protestant Planters, who had for many years lived in those parts, and had they had the honour to have been consulted with, they could have told them that those fiery Regions was not for the constitution of our bodies.

That Fox and subtile Statesman Sir *Kenelme Digby*, his very name should have bin fatall to the Protestants cause, if the Lord Protector *Oliver* and Mr. *Thurloe* would have bin pleased to remember the Gun-powder treason.

This fatal designe of *Jamaica* cost the Protector and the Commonwealth above tvvo

millions of pounds, beſide the lives of above twentie thouſand valiant *Engliſhmen*, deſtroyed by the unhealthfulneſs of the Climate, and want of neceſſary Proviſions; and when theſe valiant men were almoſt famiſht, (who had they bin in any part of *Chriſtendom*, the Spaniards durſt not have look't them in the face, had they bin twice their number,) yet theſe gallant Souldiers were all like ſheep led to the ſlaughter, and their blood ſpilt like water on the ground, by the treachery of ſome of their Officers, who no doubt had private inſtructions from ſome then in power to do what they did, which upon examination was the cauſe they kept their heads upon their ſhoulders, and eſcap't both with lives and eſtates.

May it pleaſe your Honours, I hope your Honours will pardon theſe ſad and neceſſarie truths, proceeding from a loyal heart. I have formerly ventured my life many times to get the Common-wealth two hundred ſeventie eight thouſand pounds in money, I now venture my ſelf in theſe dangerous times to ſpeak truth.

truth. It is now as it was in the daies of *Noah*; no man but *Noah* and his Familie believ'd a flood would come, till it did come and ſweep them all away.

And if I be juſtly uſed, I may now in your ſtreights bring you in preſently as great a ſum in money again as I ſaved you formerly abov three hundred thouſand pounds, fevv of the Council of State when I undertook to diſcover the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors fraudulent claim to this Silver, I ſay there was but few of that Council did believe that I could ever get the State this Silver, or that I would be ſo faithful to refuſe ten thouſand pounds which was offered me by the Claimers of this Silver, which is certified in this Book by ſeverall honourable Perſons to be true, ſhould I bend my braines as much to ſtudy the diſturbance of this Common-wealth, as I have ever done the peace and happineſs of it, I could Demonſtrate to you, a pen and Inkhorne-man as I am can do more ſervice or diſſervice then many hundreds of Red-coats, I humbly pray my faithfulneſſe be not paid with Ingratitude.

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As for my own life, I deſire to have it no longer preſerv'd then I can ſerve and benefit my Countrey. I will wait on God, and exſpect an happie iſſue upon this my humble requeſt, knowing that if the Reputation and Iuſtice of the State, and the Certificates of honorable perſons be of any value in your Honours ſight, my great expence, pains and faithfulneſs, ſhall have its due and promiſed Reward; conſidering that in theſe humble Propoſals which I have propounded to your Honours for my ſatisfaction, I take no money from the publick, but humbly offer to pay in monethly a great Revenue to the maimed Souldiers, to regulate the abuſes of the Manufacture of Gold and Silver Thread and Lace, to give a ſtop to the Tranſportation of Gold and Silver, to keep your Mint conſtantly at work to coyn money, great quantities yearly: all which ſervices are of very great conſequence to the Common-wealth, the conſideration of the premiſſes I humbly leave to your Honours, and remain

Your Honours dutifull and humble Servant,

TH. VIOLET.

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To

To the High Court of

PARLIAMENT

Of the Common-wealth of

England, &c.

AND TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

COUNCEL OF STATE.

I. THomas Violet *of* London *Goldſmith, humbly preſents this Narrative, concerning his ſtaying in the Court of Admiralty the Silver in the Ships* Sampſon, Salvador *and* George, *together with the Certificates and Reports of many Honourable Perſons, atteſting your Petitioners great ſervice done this Nation, in his ſeaſonable Applications to the Councel of State* 1652. *and his proteſting in the Admiralty, againſt the diſcharge of this ſilver, and diſcovering the frauds of the* Spaniſh *and* Flemiſh *Claimers, and in many other particulars.*

II. *Further ſheweth, that there was unloaded out of the aforeſaid ſhips, 1653. upon your Petitioners diſcovery, the ſumme of two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds, which your Petitioners ſtayed by his Proteſt in the Admiralty, the ſame houre the Judges would have diſcharged it. And this ſilver was all coyned in the Tower. And Colonel* Barkſtead, *Lieutenant of the Tower, paid all this treaſure to the Army and Navie, for the defence and ſervice of this Common wealth, in 1653. and 1654. as will appear to your Honours, upon the ſight of his Accounts concerning this buſineſſe.*

III. *Theſe Particulars with many others, are certified to his late Highneſſe* Oliver Lord Protector, *under the hands of* Col. Barkſtead, *Lieutenant of the Tower,* Alderman Viner, *Capt.* John Limbery, Doctor Walker, Serjeant Dendy, Maurice Thomſon, *Treaſurer of the* East-India *Company,* Serjeant Middleton, Iſaack Doriſlawes, Gabriel Beck *Eſquires, By vertue of his late Highneſſe reference directed to them* 13. July 1657.

IV. *The true Copies of theſe original Petitions and Certificates, and ſeveral other Tranſactions touching this ſilver, are here preſented to your Honours view, to the end your Petitioner may (after ſo long a delay of Juſtice) have his dearly earned reward. Your Honours, upon peruſal of all the Premiſſes, will ſee it clearly proved, your Petitioners great expence, eminent zeal, faithfulneſſe, and integritie, with the hazard of his life in this ſervice of the Commou-wealth.*

May 25. 1659.

Your Honours Humble Servant,
THO. VIOLET.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

The LORDS and others of the

COUNCEL OF STATE.

VIZ.

Thomas Lord *Fairfax*, Major Gen. *Lambert*, Col. *John Desborough*, Col. *James Bury*, *John Bradshaw* Serjeant at Law, Sir *Anthony Ashley Cooper*, Sir *Horatio Townsend*, Sir *Arthur Heselrigge*, Sir *Henry Vane*, Lieut. Gen. *Ludlow*, Lieut. Gen. *Fleetwood*, Major *Saloway*, Col. *Dixwell*, Mr. *Reynolds*, Mr. *Josiah Barners*, Col. *Morley*, Mr. *Thomas Scot*, Mr. *Robert Wallop*, Sir *James Harrington*, Col. *Walton*, Col. *John Jones*, Col. *Sydney*, Col. *Sydenham*, Mr. *Hen. Nevill*, Mr. *Thomas Chaloner*, Col. *Downs*, Lord Chief Justice *St. John*, Col. *Thompson*, Lord *Whitlock*, Sir *Robert Honywood*, Sir *Archibald Johnson*.

May it please your Honours,

YOur Petitioner did about the eighth of *Decemb.* 1652. deliver into the Councel of State a Written Paper, wherein was discovered, that at that present time a Practice and Combination was set on foot by several Merchants and others, to deceive the

Common-wealth of a great quantity of ſilver, above three hundred thouſand pounds, which was then aboard the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *St. George*, then riding about *Black-wall*.

Upon Examination of this Buſineſſe at the Councel of State, the Councel within few dayes after, commanded and engaged your Petitioner in this ſervice, and your Petitioner did faithfully promiſe the Councel his uttermoſt endeavours, to diſcover this fraud, and at his own charge to proſecute this Buſineſſe in the Court of Admiraltie. The Judges of the Court of Admiraltie did appoint the 16. day of *Decemb.* 1652. to give ſentence for clearing theſe ſhips and ſilver, being to the value of about three hundred thouſand pounds in ſilver, as appears by the Certificate of the Officers of the Mint; Whereupon your Petitioner came into the Court of Admiralty, the very day and houre the Judges were clearing the ſaid ſilver, and at his own peril made his Proteſt in the Admiraltie againſt the Judges of that Court, and againſt all further Proceedings of theirs, to diſcharge this Silver in the aforeſaid ſhips, till your Petitioners Witneſſes were examined, and ſhewed the Judges many Reaſons, being for the advantage and ſafety of the Common-wealth, for reſpiting for ſome dayes their Judgment.

Thereupon the Court of Admiralty adjourned till the next day; and the Judges being very angry with your Petitioner for making the aforeſaid Proteſt, and for what your Petitioner had ſaid to the Judges in open Court, the

Judges

Judges thereupon command your Petitioner to attend the Council of State that very day in the afternoon, being 16 of *December* 1652. the Petitioner to anſwer before them for his mildemeanor (ſo the Iudges were pleaſed to call it) that morning in the Court of Admiralty.

Your Petitioner did accordingly attend the Council of State that day, 16 *Dec.* in the afternoon, and upon full examination of the Buſineſs before them, the Council ſtayed the ſilver, and blamed the Judges for their complaining of your Petitioner, and your Petitioner had thanks from the Council for what hee had done in his timely and ſeaſonable ſtaying this ſilver, and commanded to uſe what expedition hee could in proving that great quantities of the ſilver then aboard theſe ſhips appertained to the Merchants of *Amſterdam.* Thereupon your Petitioner undertook to the Council of State to diſprove the Spaniſh and Flemiſh clamors, and the Spaniſh Embaſſadors pretences to all this ſilver in the aforeſaid ſhips. And this diſcovery your Petitioner undertook to make to the Council of State at his own charge.

The Council of State upon the conſiderations aforeſaid, and to incourage your Petitioner to proceed, they did faithfully promiſe your Petitioner for this his ſervice and diſcovery, that your Petitioner ſhould be paid the ſum of eleven thouſand pounds out of the ſilver that ſhould be taken out of theſe ſhips, and converted to the uſe of the Common-wealth, this ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, being the value of your Petitioners Eſtate, which

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the Parliament 1643. upon mis-information againſt your Petitioner had ſequeſtred.

And the Council of State declared unto your Petitioner, That if your Petitioner ſhould fail to make good his undertaking in diſproving the Spaniſh and Flemiſh Claims to all this ſilver, then aboard the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, that the undertaking would undo your Petitioner; for upon your Petitioners failing to make good proof of what he had undertaken, the Councel of State would report your Petitioner to the Parliament to be an Incendiary, therefore it highly concerned your Petitioner to be well aſſured of what he had undertaken, and alſo to be juſtly dealt withal when he had done this ſervice.

Upon the aſſurance of the Councel of State upon the aforeſaid termes, your Petitioner engaged and undertook this great, difficult, and dangerous ſervice, wherein your Petitioner employed above ten ſeveral perſons, for about two years, and laid out of Purſe, beſides all his time and hazard, the ſumme of above ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, which he payes intereſt for at this very day, as is depoſed by ſeveral Witneſſes whom your Petitioners employed in this ſervice, and this is atteſted under the hands of ſeveral Honourable Perſons, to the late Lord Protector *Oliver*.

May it pleaſe your Honours, beſides this ſervice your Petitioner did for the Common-wealth, he diſcovered to the Councel of State, in *Jan.* 1651. That from *Auguſt.* 1652.

to *December* 20. 1652. the Admiralty had diſcharged fifty eight ſhips, all loaden with rich merchandize, I printed the ſeveral daies of the moneth they were cleared out of the Court of Admiralty, the names of the ſhips, and the Maſter of the ſhips names, and the parties to whom theſe ſhips and merchandize was delivered at *London*; and that many of theſe ſhips after their diſcharge from hence, unloaded their merchandize at *Amſterdam* for the account of the Dutch, to the value of many hundred thouſand pounds.

Upon examination of this Buſineſs, the Council of State had certain intelligence from beyond ſea that this information was true, and theſe Letters were remaining in Captain *Biſhops* hands who can teſtifie the truth. Whereupon your Petitioner humbly preſented to the Council of State in writing ſeveral waies for the preventing this abuſe for the future, and the Judges in the Admiraltie was removed, and orher Iudges put in their places, with particular inſtructions for the prevention of the former frauds put on the Nation.

By which diſcovery made by your Petitioner, the Common-wealth got many ſcore prizes, which were condemned as Dutch prizes, when they could not bring atteſtations from *Hamborough* under the Parliament Agents hands, *viz* Mr *Bradſhaws*, that they really and truly belonged to *Hamborough*. The value of the Ships and goods by your Petitioners means diſcovered was amounting to ſeveral ſcore of thouſand pounds, beſides all the ſilver your Petitioner ſtayed, which the Dutch had cozened.

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ed us of, had not your Petitioner acquainted the Council in *Ianuary* 1652 with the former cheats put on the Nation, in printing a liſt of 58 Saile of ſhips, moſt of them Dutch prize, which the Common-wealth loſt, for want of keeping a good Watch on the Actions of their Judges and Officers in the Admiralty in thoſe times 1652. 1653. It was nothing for ordinary Proctors in the Admiralty to get foure or five thouſand pounds a yeare, by cozening the State in their prizes, till your Petitioner by his diſcovery to the Councel of State, ſpoiled their Trade for a great part of it. This diſcovery got your Petitioner the envy of many hundred Merchants, and others in the Admiralty.

There was not a motion, nor any Proceedings in the Court of Admiralty, for about three yeares, touching the Silver Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, their ſilver and lading, but every day your Petitioner was required, to give his attendance therein, at the Court of Admiralty, and forced to employ at his own charge many perſons; and your Petitioner was required by Doctor *Walker*, at his own charge to employ many perſons to breviate and have inſpection into all the Records, Acts, Bills of lading, Pleas, Extracts, Allegations, and Interrogatories, Witneſſes, Depoſitions in the Silver buſineſſe, as will appear under the hands of ſeveral perſons employed and paid by your Petitioner for that ſervice.

Your Petitioner did ſeveral times move the Councel of State, in *December*, *January*, *February*, *March* 1652.

to unload the ſilver out of the ſhips, to avoid the embezeling thereof, there being above an hundred thouſand pounds ſtollen out of theſe ſhips, while the ſilver was in the River; there are bills of lading in the Admiralty, for ſilver that was never delivered into the Tower, to the value of above a hundred thouſand pounds in ſilver, which bills appertain to theſe ſhips, *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*.

Your Petitioner preſented to the Councel of State, in 1652. 1653. ſeveral frauds and abuſes put upon the Common-wealth, in the Sale of their Prizes, Ships, and Merchandize, by the indirect meanes of ſome Officers they intruſted to ſell the ſame, ſometimes the State hath been cheated fourty in the hundred, to the value of many ſcore of thouſand pounds in this buſineſſe.

Your Petitioner finding theſe papers that made this Diſcovery, which he delivered to Col. *Joanes*, and Mr. *Thurloe*, (by ſome bribing means) in the Cuſtodie of ſome of the parties complained of; and that nothing was done to reform theſe abuſes, but this buſineſs was ſtifled. (And by your Petitioners diſcovery of the abuſes for the ſervice of the State, he had contracted the envie of many guilty perſons) Thereupon to ſhew to the world, what I had delivered in private to the aforeſaid perſons was true, and that I would juſtifie what I had complained of privately, I printed the ſeveral frauds and cheats put upon the Nation by ſome of the Commiſſioners for prize Goods, and ſome of their Officers and Agents, and demonſtrated ſeveral wayes for the State to

finde it out, which was offered to be proved to be true, by Mr. *John Day*, and ſeveral others at that time, but the fate of the Common-wealth in thoſe dayes was to be cozened, that makes the debts of the publick now at this time ſo great, and the Publicans of the time ſo rich.

Your Petitioner by order of Parliament, as appears by your Records of the Houſe, for ſeveral yeares was commanded to follow and ſolicite the getting of an Act to paſſe againſt tranſporting Gold and Silver. And your Petitioner made ſeveral overtures both for puniſhing and diſcovery of the offenders that had tranſported Gold and Silver, and melted down the ſilver coyn of the Nation; by whoſe fines many ſcore of thouſand pounds would have juſtly come to the State.

But the guilty perſons were then ſo powerfull in the Councills of the Parliament, that though the Parliament made ſeveral Committees of the Houſe and Council of State, for the perfecting the Act and for diſcovery of the offenders, and referred the matter thereof to the conſideration of the Commiſsioners of the Navy, Officers of the Mint, and Farmers of the Cuſtomes, who all of them have certified the Parliament of the great miſchief and dammage the Common-wealth ſuffered by ſeveral evil-diſpoſed perſons, who for private lucre and gain daily tranſported the Gold and Silver of the Nation, to the unſpeakable damage of the Common-wealth. This Bill being twice read in the Houſe, and ſeveral times committed, yet by the power of ſome guilty Merchants, this good Act was ſtopt, ſmothered and ſtifled,

fled, and never finiſht, though your Petitioner attended many yeares at his great expence and charges to have this good Act paſt, (And now at this day it is apparent to all people,) that you cannot receive in the payment of a thouſand pounds twenty ſhillings in Gold, no Gold being ſtirring in the Nation, but in the hands of Gameſters, Rooks, and Goldſmiths, they ſelling a twenty ſhillings piece in Gold for two ſhillings in the pound, more then the price current by Proclamation, which is againſt the Statute of the fifth and ſixth of *Edward* the ſixth. And to give your Honours an information of the preſent ſtock of Silver moneys, now current in this Nation, there is very little left but light and clipt money, the weightie ſilver money, being culled, melted down, and tranſported, by divers Goldſmiths and others, for private lucre and gain, to the unſpeakable damage of the Common-wealth, eſpecially at this time, now we have War with *Spain*. This your Petitioner hath often complained of to this Parliament, and hath humbly offered them a remedy, but as yet nothing hath been done by them to prevent this miſchief.

There was ſeveral Committees appointed to regulate the abuſes concerning the coyne, and removing the obſtructions of the Mint theſe times, having appointed two Doctors of Phyſick to be the chief Officers of the Mint.

Your Petitioner was required to give his attendance on this Committee, and commanded by them at his own charge to ſend for from beyond ſeas all the principal Coyns in Chriſtendom, *and to procure the Lawes, Orders and Statutes made beyond ſeas, for*

the due regulating their Mints; and their Policies, how they used to draw bullion into their Mints: these Lawes your Petitioner translated and printed, and presented them to the Committee for this businesse, for removing the obstructions of the Mint.

And your Petitioner made Assayes of all these forraign Coynes of Gold and Silver, and writ down the just weight and standard of every severall forreign Coyne, what proportion and value they held with the standard of our Mint, and what every forreign piece of Gold and Silver, would make to Merchants to be coyn'd in our Mint of London, *and caused all the severall stamps of the Coynes of forreign Gold and Silver to be engraved, for the true information of all our English Merchants, who generally are not so expert in this mystery as the Dutch Merchants are. The true reason of this defect is this,* viz. *In* England *we have only our own Coynes of Gold and Silver goes currant, which makes our Nation in general never to study the intrinsecal value of forreign Coynes of Gold or Silver; whereas in* Holland *almost all forreign Coynes of Gold or Silver goes currant by Proclamation, therefore of necessity all Merchants and others must know the intrinsecal value of all forreign Coynes, what proportion they hold with their standard; and several Books which they call Placarts, are printed by Authority of the States, with the several Figures of the Coynes of forreign Gold and Silver, being marked in the margin at what price the several Coynes shall go, not being washed and clipt, and full weight.*

And the Dutch allowing these forreign Coynes to go currant, having publick banks of treasure, that makes them Ma-

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ſters of their Exchange of moneys, the myſteries whereof very few of our Engliſh Merchants underſtand, for the reaſons aforeſaid.

But had the Figures of all the forreign Coynes bin printed, which was prepared by yonr Petitioner, by order of the Honourable the Committee of the Mint, in 1652. your Petitioner humbly affirms to your Honours, that the printing thereof would have been a great guide and advantage to our Merchants, and the Nation, had Mr. Secretary Thurloe given your Petitioner back again theſe Prints and Papers which was moſt model'd and acted by your Petitioner; but he buried them in Oblivion, as he did many other good Propoſals, which your Petitioner preſented to him, for the ſervice of the Common-wealth.

Your Petitioner humbly offered, to the conſideration of the Committee, for removing the obſtructions of the Mint, that if they would ſet the Mint a work, they muſt take order to remove their chief Officers of the Mint; theſe Gentlemen, the preſent maſter-Worker and Warden, were never brought up to know the myſteries of the Mint, nor the private waies of correſpondence with forein mints and merchants, and to make every winde bring griſt to their mill, and to know what ſhips and merchants bring us in gold and ſilver, and to learn the myſterie to inforce them to coyn it; alſo to know what ſhips and merchants tranſport gold and ſilver without licence from the State, and to keep good intelligence and watch upon their actions, that ſo the gold and ſilver endeavored to be unlawfully tranſported may be ſeiz'd and forfeited. For a man to be his Craſts-maſter in this myſtery, requires as many years ſtudy as to be a Doctor of Phyſick, and is never to be learn'd by looking on an Urinal.

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Your Petitioner humbly ſaies, The Parliament had made a better bargain to have given theſe Doctors of Phyſick fortie thouſand pounds for a penſion, than to ſuffer that dammage they have received by the not-imploying of the mint, daily gold and ſilver being imported into this Nation, and before ever it be coyned tranſported out again without licence, to the great dammage and weakning of the ſtock of this Common wealth.

There is ſilver and gold vaſt and great quantities brought daily from beyond the ſeas, and landed in this Nation, without paying of Cuſtom, and this verie ſilver and gold is ſtoln out of the Nation again before ever it be coyned without licence or paying of Cuſtom; ſo here is a Trade to the value of ſome hundreds of thouſands of pounds by the year, for the particular profit of ſome covetous merchants, and the Common-wealth have no profit either by Exciſe, Cuſtom or Coynadge; and till skilfull men in theſe Myſteries be imployed in the Mint, this miſchief will not be ſtopt or removed either by Doctors or Apothecaries.

Your Petitioner did formerly offer, and now doth humby offer unto your Honours, that he may be impowered and commiſsioned to be maſter-Worker and melter of the Mint, to undertake now at this time to ſet your Mint to work, notwithſtandidg the preſent Warre with Spain, *provided your Petitioner may be impowered by your Honours order for the execution of what he ſhall humbly propound for the honour of the State and ſervice of the Common-wealth in this buſineſs.*

God ſend your Honours to order all theſe abuſes by mee here preſented, may be prevented for the future, and care taken, where corrupt, ignorant and unskilfull perſons are got into imploiment for the publick they may be removed, and truſtie skilfull Officers put

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in their imploiments. Your Petitioner humbly saies, This is a sure waie to abate and lessen the great engagements of the Commonwealth, when Drones are discharged and Bees imploied: for if your Honours take away the cause, the cure of the disease followes of course.

OLIVER the late Lord Protector the 20. of *April* 1653. dismisses the Parliament, and the same day put a Guard of souldiers aboard the aforesaid ships, *Sampson, Salvador,* and *St. George,* then riding about *Black-wall.* And shortly after unloads all the silver into the Mint, which your Petitioner stayed for the use of the Common-wealth: your Petitioner can prove it by the Account of the Mint, that the silver which was taken out of the said ships, beside what was stoln and embezeled, amounted to the summe of two hundred seventie eight thousand odde hundred pounds, and Mr. Lieut. of the Tower, Col. *Barkstead,* paid out all this great Treasure.

In reducing the *Dutch,* paying the Army, and other services for the Publick, as will appear by the particulars of his Accompt; and your Petitioner never had farthing, so that this great Treasure your Petitioner stayed, was every pennie laid out in defence of the Common-wealth, and subduing the *Dutch.* It was a great mercie of God to this Nation, that your Petitioner prevented the *Dutch* from getting this great Treasure, at that juncture of time, 1652. that silver would have made work for us else, had the Dutch had it.

When your Petitioner see all this money disposed of by

by Col. *Barkſtead*, and not one penny thereof paid unto your Petitioner, according to the promiſe of the Councel of State; yet at the ſame time your Petitioner to be daily commanded and enjoined by the late Lord Protector *Oliver*, and by his Councel, and by the Judges of the Admiraltie, and Doctor *Walker* 1653. 1654. dailie required at his own charge to attend and proſecute this buſineſſe, and to pay about ten other perſons for about two yeares, who aſſiſted your Petitioner in the proſecution of this buſineſſe, as appears by the Warrants of the Councel of State, Court of Admiraltie, Doctor *Walker*, all of them dated after the 20. of *April* 1653. which Warrants and Orders your Petitioner hath ready to produce to your Honours.

Your Petitioner finding this unmerciful and hard uſage in this buſineſſe, to be dailie forced to borrow great ſummes of money at intereſt, and to expend the ſame in proſecuting this buſineſs in the Admiraltie to maintain the States claim to this ſilver againſt the claimers, and your Petitioner never to receive one peny from the States for his ſervice, he was enforced to petition the late Lord Protector OLIVER for his reward and ſatisfaction, according to the promiſe of the Councel of State, his Highneſs being one of the Members that had faithfully promiſed your Petitioner the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds when your Petitioner firſt undertook this ſervice, before Col. *Bingham* and Mr *Sadler*.

In his Petition hee ſets forth the ſeveral ſervices, chargeable and dangerous imploiment, together with the

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Councel of States engagements and promiſe, to pay your Petitioner eleven thouſand pounds for this his diſcovery and ſervice, and named ſeveral of the Councel of State which knew this to be a truth, and that your Petitioner wholly relied upon the Councels Promiſe as aforeſaid (which was the true cauſe) that engaged your Petitioner, to undertake this difficult, chargeable, and dangerous task and employment.

And had not your Petitioner borrowed above ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, and expended it all in this ſervice, which he payes intereſt for at this very day, beſides your Petitioners daily attendance in the Admiralty, with about ten perſons whom he paid and employed in this buſineſs to aſſiſt your Petitioner; had not your Petitioner done this, the Common-wealth had loſt every penny of this great treaſure.

The late Lord Protector *Oliver*, upon your Petitioners addreſſes unto him, and after his daily attendance for above two yeares, with Petitions at *Whitehall* and *Hampton* Court, for his dearly earned reward, the reaſons wherefore the Protector delayed your Petitioner ſo long, before his reference touching this buſineſſe, was (he knew the Referrees would certifie the debt, and that he knew I could prove his particular Promiſe, for the paying of your Petitioner eleven thouſand pounds for this ſervice, which he made me at the Cock-pit at *Whitehall*, before Col. *Bingham* and Mr. *Sadler*, who were of the then Councel of State, and brought me to him, to give him a particular Account what your Petitioner had done

in this buſineſſe, your Petitioner by his importunity and daily attendance, following him every day, got his Highneſſe *Oliver* at laſt, to referre the aforeſaid Petition to Col. *Barkſtead* Lieut. of the Tower, Mr. Alderman *Vyner*, Capt. *John Limbery*, Doctor *Walker* Advocate for his Highneſſe, *Gabriel Beck*, Serjeant *Dendy*, *Maurice Thomſon* Treaſurer of the Eaſt-*India* Company, *Serjeant Middleton*, *Iſaac Doriſlawes* Eſquires, or any three or more of them, to take your Petitioners Petition into their conſideration, to examine all the premiſſes, and thereupon to ſtate and certifie your Petitioners caſe, (to his late Highneſſe *Oliver* Lord Protector,) together with their opinions upon the whole matter, touching your Petitioners reward and ſatisfaction for this ſervice, as appears by the original Petition and Reference.

All the aforenamed Referrees upon reading this Petition, and the tranſactions thereupon, after many dayes meeting, held it very neceſſarie for the clearing of the truth, to acquaint the Lord Bradſhaw, *Sir* James Harrington, *Sir* George Fleetwood, *and* Francis Allen *Eſquires, with your Petitioners Petition, and his Highneſſe Reference thereupon, in regard your Petitioner had named all the aforeſaid Honourable perſons in his Petitions and Papers, amongſt others, who both knew your Petitioners ſervices, touching the ſtaying this ſilver; and were privie to the Councel of States Ingagements and Intentions, to pay your Petitioner eleven thouſand pounds, when your Petitioner undertook to diſprove the* Spaniſh *and* Flemiſh *Claimers. And upon Conſideration of the Councels promiſe to your Petitioner,*

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as aforesaid, was the cause that made your Petitioner undertake this difficult, chargeable and dangerous service. And the aforesaid referrees received Certificates from everie one of the aforesaid honorable persons, which Certificates set forth the great service done by your Petitioner, viz. That your Petitioner was upon his first undertaking of this Business looked on by the then Councel of State as the Great Wheel that set all on work, and set on foot this discovery in getting the State this great Treasure, or else the State had lost it in the Admiraltie, and that these Actings of your Petitioner, accompanied with great charge, hazzard and trouble, was the Cause (sine qua non) of the after-benefit received by the State upon conversion of this silver. That the Councel of States Ingagements and intentions to the Petitioner, at his first assuming the imploiment, was not without good reason uncommitted to writing, for avoiding of misconstruction.

And the Councel of State did not onely promise the Petitioner the restoration of his Estate for his particular service of staying the Silver, but did also promise to confer upon the Petitioner an Honorable Memorial; and had not the Petitioner had a real assurance from the Councel of State in 1652. for the paying of him the summe of eleven thousand pounds, the whole Businesse touching this Silver had been lost and left undertaken, had not the Petitioner had such an insurance and promise, and also relied on the same for a just Performance.

It is true, they certifie that for some Reasons of State the Petitioners (Thomas Violets) assurance and reward was not committed to writing, to avoid clamour and lewd tongues, but this omission was not to frustrate the Petitioner of his dearly-earn'd Reward, the restoration of his Estate, or eleven thousand pounds.

Theſe are but the Heads of the aforeſaid Certificates, the Originals certifie all matters touching this Buſineſs at large, under the hands of the Lord *Bradſhaw*, Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Fleetwood*, *Francis Allen* Eſquires, every perſon ſeverally certifies all the aforeſaid referrees their particular knowledg of this Buſineſs.

Col. *Barkſtead*, Sir *Thomas Viner*, and all the before-named Referrees, upon conſideration of theſe Certificates, and upon ſight of the atteſtation of the Officers of the Mint, and ſeveral other Witneſſes, who depoſe, That *Thomas Violet* was ſeveral times offered, and might have received from the Claimers of Silver, (Merchants of *Flanders* then in *London*) the ſumme of ten thouſand pounds to have deſiſted the proſecution of this Buſineſs in the Court of Admiralty, and to have betrayed the truſt which the Councel of State impoſed on him, to make a diſcovery of *Spaniſh* and *Flemiſh* fraudulent Claimes; and alſo upon ſight of ſeveral orders of the Councel of State, the Judges of the Admiralty, and Doctor *Walker*, and ſeveral depoſitions taken in the Petitioners caſe, upon the whole matter all the aforeſaid Referrees certifie his late Highneſs *Oliver* Lord Protector; *viz.*

That upon Examination of *Thomas Violets* Petition, they finde that the Petitioner is a perſon who not onely deſerv's the making good of the Councel of States Ingagement and Promiſe unto him, for the true paying your Petitioner *Tho. Violet*, the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, but upon due conſideration had of the great Travel, Charge, and Hazard, which your Petitioner hath undergone in the

the Profecution of this buſineſſe, and your Petitioners great faithfulneſs in refuſing to be corrupted, or betray the intereſt of the Common-wealth, as hath been fully proved unto them, as alſo upon the Atteſtation of *Sir George Fleetwood* and Sir *James Harrington*, concerning the Promiſe of the Councel of State to your Petitioner *Tho. Violet*, for the reſtoration to him his eſtate, or eleven thouſand pounds, all theſe Referrees report to his late Highneſſe *Oliver* Lord Protector, that they humbly conceive upon the whole matter of Fact, that over and above the payment of eleven thouſand pounds: that there be ſome ſignal reward conferred on the Petitioner for this his eminent ſervice, that all other for the future may be encouraged to ſerve the intereſt of the Common-wealth, with that ſingular faithfulneſs and integrity, as the Petitioner hath done, and they all certifie that they finde, It proved that the Petitioner by his chargeable proſecution of this buſineſs in the Court of Admiralty, hath contracted debts, amounting unto the ſumme of ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, which the Petitioner borrowed at intereſt, all his own eſtate being under ſequeſtration ever ſince 1643. beſides ſeveral other great ſummes of money your Petitioner borrowed at intereſt for his ſupport ever ſince his ſequeſtration, upon conſideration whereof they finde the Petitioners Engagements are very preſſing upon him, and they all humblie offer, that for the preſent, leſt the Petitioner ſhould be thrown into priſon, for the very moneys he hath expended in getting the Common-wealth this great treaſure of two hundred

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ſeventy eight thouſand pounds, the juſt accompt there-of they had ſeen preſented unto them by Col. *Bark-ſtead.*

That his Highneſſe *Oliver* Lord Protector, in conſideration of all the Premiſſes, would be pleaſed preſently to pay the Petitioner *Tho. Violet*, ſome conſiderable ſum of money to pay off his great engagements for the State, and for his ſupport for the future, according to his quality, and that the remainder of the money to make up the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds be paid unto him according to the Promiſe of the Councel of State, the Petitioner *Tho. Violet*, having ſerved the Common-wealth in this great buſineſſe, with a great deal of reſolution, faithfulneſs and activity. This Report is at large ſigned and certified to his late Highneſs, *Oliver* Lord Protector, the firſt of *May* 1658. by Col. *Barkſtead* Lieutenant of the Tower, Mr. Alderman *Vyner*, *Gabriel Beck*, *John Limbery*, *Edward Denly*, *Henry Middleton*, *Maurice Thomſon*, Treaſurer of the *Eaſt-India* Company, *Iſaac Doriſlaws*, as appears by the original Certificate.

Your Petitioner petitioned the late Lord Protector *Oliver* 29. *July* 1658. and annexed the aforenamed Report of the Referrees, and petitioned to be paid the ſum of eleven thouſand pound. The Lord Protector *Oliver*, upon reading the aforeſaid Petition, and the Report annexed, refers your Petitioner for ſatisfaction, together with the Report of Col. *Barkſtead*, Sir *Tho Vyner*, and others, for your Petitioners ſatisfaction unto his privy Councel, that they take conſideration of all the maters therein contained,

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ſo that the Petitioner may have and receive ſatisfaction according to Juſtice and Equity for this ſervice 29. *July* 1658. but his death ſhortly following, nothing as yet hath been done for your Petitioners ſatisfaction.

Your Petitioner thereupon in *Octob.* 1658. petitioned the late Lord Protector *Richard* for his ſatisfaction, and annexed the aforeſaid Reports and Petitions (upon his Highneſſe peruſal of the ſame) he was pleaſed to referre the ſame unto the conſideration of *Francis Bacon* late Maſter of his Requeſts, and *Gabriel Beck* Eſquires, Solicitor to the late Councel of State; They after many dayes meeting concerning this buſineſſe, have certified accordingly, as Col. *Barkſtead*, and the former Referrees have done, *viz.* for the due paying your Petitioner the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, and that they hold the Petitioner to be a perſon very fit and uſeful to be employed in removing the obſtructions of the Mint, and that the Petitioner be employed for regulating the Manufacture of gold and ſilver Wyre and Lace, which Certificates are here to be produced to your Honours, ſigned by *Francis Bacon* and *Gabriel Beck* Eſquires, 18 *Jan.* 1658.

Your Petitioner humbly prayes your Honours to take into conſideration the great and eminent advantages your Petitioner did this Common-wealth in ſtaying this ſilver, at that juncture of time in *Decemb.* 1652. for had that ſilver come into the hands of the Dutch, they would have laid it all out in powder and ſhot againſt this Common-wealth, as we employed it againſt them, as will

appear

appear by Col. *Barksteads* Accompts, which moneys under God was a principal mean to reduce the *Dutch*; what service this treasure did the Nation in that juncture of time, *Christendome* knowes, the *Dutch* then our enemies felt, and this Common-wealth at this day enjoys the happy fruit of it.

But had all advantages been home followed against the *Dutch* in the last War, we had grubbed up their greatnesse by the roots, and flayed his *Zealand* Lions skin, and broken their sheaf of Arrows to shivers, making them unable for ever to trouble us, (but we only pared their nailes, and parted with them upon too gentle conditions, and made such a peace with them, that at this time they carry all our Trade from our Merchants in a manner, and do us more damage by being our feined friends, then they could do being our open enemies, the due consideration thereof is humbly hinted here to your Honours. And if your Honours require a more particular Accompt, I can demonstrate it to you in many particulars.

May it please your Honours.

These Certificats, though they doe declare the truth of your Petitioners *service really performed, by a great number of Witnesses, yet without further consideration they pay not your Petitioners engagements, which were disbursed by him for the accomplishment of this service; and those Gentlemen that have lent their moneys reallie to your Petitioner, to enable him to do this service, look for real payment in moneys, and not in words, your Petitioners engagement at this daie for this*

businesse

buſineſſe of ſtaying of the ſilver, being above fifteen hundred pounds.

St. James ſaith what profit is it, if a Brother be naked or deſtitute of daily food, for one to ſay to him, be thou warmed, and bee thou filled, if he ſupply him not with food and raiment, ſo likewiſe a bare Certificate, without further ſupply, will neither pay debts, nor cloath, nor feed a man, many words will not fill a bagg, (it is Juſtice that eſtabliſheth a Nation, and payment of money quits debts, and not words)

What a ſhame would it bee to thoſe, that profeſſe ſo much Juſtice, and reformation, as this age doth, to have it left to poſterity and record, That your Petitioner that hath done this Common-wealth ſuch an eminent ſervice, in getting them more money then any man in this Nation ever did before, ſhould not be juſtly rewarded, according to the promiſe and ingagements of the Council of State, which made your Petitioner undertake this chargable, difficult, and dangerous ſervice, your Petitioner might have had tenn thouſand pounds from the Claimers, to have held his peace and bin quiet, and to ſuffer the Judges of the Admiraltie, to let this Silver paſſe, the truth of this is certified under the hands of many perſons of quality, had your Petitioner taken this courſe, to have bin bribed off, it had bin moſt for his eaſe but leſſe for his honeſty. The Common-wealth's intereſt, and his own reputation, in making good his promiſe and ingagement to the Lord Bradſhaw *and Council of State he valued more then his life; your Petitioner hath done his duty, and will leave the iſſue to God. 'tis* Solomon *that ſaith a poor man delivered the City, yet no man remembred the poor man, when he had done his work. I humbly*

hope that your Honours Juſtice will prevent mee, that I may not have occaſion to ſay the ſame, that is true of this Age, or leave ſo ſad a memorandum of the ingratitude of theſe times. If the Rules of our Saviour were obſerved by men of power in this Nation at this day, to do to all People, as they would be done unto, your Petitioner ſhould not have bin ſo long from time to time delayed with references, in ſo Juſt and equitable Petition.

If your Petitioner hath not this his dearly earned reward, it will remain to poſterity in print, to fright and terrifie all perſons, and make them wary how they ingage for the future, upon Engliſh States-mens promiſes, when they ſhall ſee and read theſe Tranſactions and Certificates, If your Petitioner hath not ſatisfaction according to Juſtice, it would be a means to make other men to take money when it is offered, and not to truſt to Engliſh States mens promiſes.

About the 20. of April 1659. your Petitioner did ingage an Honourable perſon, to preſent to the Lord Richard Cromwell the late Protector theſe very Petitions and Certificates, which I now preſent unto your Honours in print, I am credibly informed, upon his peruſal of them, hee was moſt honourably pleaſed to be verie ſenſible of your Petitioners ſad ſufferings, great expence, paines and fidelitie for the Common-wealth in this ſervice.

And that ſeeing all this Treaſure (which your Petitioner ſtopt in the Ships Sampſon, Salvador and George) was imploied and ſpent in the defence of the Common-wealth, his late Highneſſe was pleaſed to declare, to an Honourable perſon that informed mee your Petitioner, his late Highneſſe did think my

promiſed

promiſed reward to be a juſt debt, and that the Common-wealth ought to pay it, and had not the Government beene changed, I am aſſured from ſeveral honourable perſons, his late Highneſs the Lord Richard Cromwell *would have ſeen mee juſtlie paid the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, and given me an honourable reward and Imploiment over and above.*

Your Petitioner implores your Honours to conſider of all his premiſſes, and that as your Petitioner did this *Nation* the greateſt ſervice, that ever was done by any man of his condition, in ſaveing this Common-wealth two hundred ſeventie eight thouſand pounds, which was all imployed in defence of this Common-wealth.

Your Petitioners humble prayer is, after ſo long a delay of Juſtice, he may have his dearly earned reward, the payment of the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, in ſuch wayes and in ſuch maner, as your Petitioner may be inabled to pay off the great ingagements he hath layd out in this ſervice, and to ſupport himſelf according to his quality, and that others ſeeing your Juſtice, may for the future bee incouraged to ſerve the intereſt of the *Nation*, with that integrity, activity, and faithfullneſſe as your Petitioner hath done, with the hazard of his life, and all that hee had dear in this world, your Petitioner having ingaged his Credit, and borrowed above fifteen hundred pounds which hee expended every penny in this ſervice, and in his attendance to gett ſatisfaction, and at this day oweth the ſumme at intereſt,

to ſave and gett the State this great Treaſure, beſides all his paines and hazard.

Theſe ſeveral Services and Propoſals done by your Petitioner, for the honour and profit of the Common wealth, your Honours will ſee them certified under the hands of the Lord Bradſhaw, *Sir* James Harrington, *Sir* George Fleetwood, *and* Francis Allen *Eſquire, and that your Petitioner was faithfully promiſed the reſtoration of his eſtate, by divers members of Parliament and Councel of State, for ſeveral chargeable ſervices your* Petitioner *had done the Parliament ſome years before, from the year* 1648 *to* 1652. *before your Petitioner undertook to ſtay the ſilver in the ſhips* Samplon, Salvador, *and* George, *and this is clearly demonſtrated by the ſaid Certificates.*

But upon your Petitioners *happy and ſucceſſeful ſtaying of this ſilver, and undertaking at his own charge to proſecute this diſcovery in the Admiralty, upon the* Promiſe *of the Councel of* State 1652. *to pay your* Petitioner *the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds for this ſervice, in lieu of his ſequeſtred eſtate, which for ſo many yeares your* Petitioner *had ſolicited both the Councel of State and Parliament to have it.*

Sir James Harrington, *and Sir* George Fleetwood, *fully and clearly certifie, that they think themſelves bound in honour and conſcience, to certifie the truth of their knowledge to his Highneſſe Referrees, according to their Requeſt and Deſire, concerning the Councel of States promiſes and engagements to pay your* Petitioner *the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, that ſo your* Petitioner *may have his dearly earned reward for this great*

great ſervice, and not labour for the State in vain; And that if the rule of the Goſpel were obſerved to do to other men as they would be done unto, your Petitioner could not be many weeks without receiving eleven thouſand pounds, and over and above an honorable reward and memoriall from the State for this great ſervice, and that the State in Honour and Juſtice, was obliged to pay your Petitioner the above ſaid ſumme, and that no doubt but ſo faithfull a ſervice, ſo carefully and painfully performed would have a happy iſſue, and the Petitioners reward from the State would bee ſutable to the greatneſſe of the ſervice, upon peruſal of Sir James Harrington, *and Sir* George Fleetwoods *Certificates, your Honours will ſee this more fully ſet down and amplified; The Lord* Bradſhawes *Certificate for the ſubſtance is to the ſame effect, ſo is* Francis Allens *Eſquire, who being a* Goldſmith *knew experimentally the great abilities in your Petitioner, to regulate and reforme the abuſes in the Mint, and the ſervices and overtures of your Petitioner. 1650. 1651. 1652. offered the Council of State both to ſet the Mint on work, and to give a ſtop to the tranſporting of Treaſure, he certifies your Petitioner had taken great paines, and ſpent much money in this buſineſs, (which had the humble advice and propoſition of your Petitioner then bin taken by the* Parliament *) you had filled the Nation at this day with Gold and Silver, and conſtantly imployed your Mint to the great honour and profit of the Nation, for all the Warr with* Spain.

Your Petitioner at this day humbly offers to ſet the Mint on work ſo he may be imployed, and not labour for the State in vaine, for your Petitioner to take the paines and bee at

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the Charge, and other persons who have no skill in this businesse, to run away with the profit: Your Petitioner hath too often bin so served by great men in power, and shall not do it againe for any ones pleasure whosoever.

Thus have I humbly presented my services done for the State, and the Councils ingagements and promise for your Petitioners satisfaction. It is a Rule set down by God and all Nations, Christians, Turkes, and Jewes, that there are degrees of rewards for vertue, and degrees of punishments for vice, the degrees of Punishments and Rewards are in all well-regulated Kingdomes and Common wealths put down, and the people know them that so they may not offend; and there is no offence to be justly punished, either by Gods Law or Mans, before a Law be made to give men the Rule, for the Apostle saith, I had not known sin but by the Law. And that punishment that is inflicted on a man, before a Law made to prohibit or restrain a man from doing the same, let it be inflicted by what Power soever, (must needs be a very great affliction and punishment sent of God for a mans other sins) and cannot as to men be said to be regularly done, especially where the offence is taken, and the punishment so heavy, as it shall deprive a man of all his estate, and keep a man almost foure yeares a Prisoner, in which time your Petitioner spent eight hundred pounds for charges, whereof nine hundred twenty eight dayes of that time, he was kept a close Prisoner, without ever being brought to a legal Trial, according to the Fundamental Lawes of the Nation by a Jury, the birth-right of every Englishman rich or poor; but after a mans estate is squandred, disposed, and given away to several Persons and Committees, for particular mens profit, and

upon

upon false and untrue pretences, to the value of above eleven thousand pounds, as your Petitioner for many yeares hath proved and presented to the Councel of State and Parliament, ever since the year 1648. bring much about the time your Petitioner was turned out of the Tower, without any legal Trial or Reason given for his Commitment, or the taking away of his Estate contrary to Magna Charta, and all the Laws of this Nation.

God having given your Petitioner his freedom, your Petitioner presentlie, to shew that he was oppressed, and the Parliament misinformed, and his estate unduly taken away, given and disposed of upon false and untrue pretences, for particular mens profit, to several Committees and others, the Petitioner did humblie addresse himself for reliefe, to many honourable Members of Parliament and Councel of State, and presented them with the true estate of his sufferings in Print.

The Cause of your Petitioners sufferings was for bringing up a Letter from Oxford 1643. from the late King, who had then a desire to emploie, and make your Petitioner Master-worker of his Mint at Oxford; which place the King did give me there, and the Petitioner had an Order from the House of Parliament, and a Passe from the Lord General Essex, about the 28. of Decemb. 1643. to go to Oxford to the King, upon condition to put in security in a thousand pounds, which security I did accordingly give, to make good my Exchange for one Mr. Heslrigge, and did accordingly bring up my Exchange to London, and left it with Sir Arthur Heslrigge, about the 3. of Jan. 1643.

And the late King Charles, upon my Exchange as aforesaid, commanded me to bring up a Letter from him to the Lord Mayor,

Court

Court of Aldermen, and Common-Councel of the City of London. I do confesse I honoured and loved the late King, for many benefits received from him, and it was my dutie to obey him as my King, though I had never received benefits from him; but had I known there had been any Act or Order of Parliament to prohibite me or any other to bring up the said Letter at that time, or that the Parliament would have taken any offence against me for doing thereof, my principles at that time, and the whole course of my Actions since, hath clearlie demonstrated to your Honours and the World, that I would have humblie declined that employment; for I have ever been an Honnurer of the Parliament and my Countrie, as this Narrative will demonstrate to posteritie.

The Tree is known by its fruit, and no man I humblie conceive in the Nation of my condition, hath yielded better fruit, or ever got the Common wealth two hundred seventie eight thousand pounds in silver, but your Petitioner. At the same instant of time Van Trump was in the Downes with the Dutch Fleet, upon the clearing of these ships out of the Admiraltie, to have conveyed them to Holland. This was a real Plot, not a feined one, as appears by the Commissions this day in the Court of Admiraltie, under the Great Seal of Holland, to De Weet and De Ruyter, their Vice-Admirals, to guard these ships from the English, upon the Petitions of the Merchants of Amsterdam. I pray God England never forgets this deliverance nor the Councel of State the Performance of their Promise to your Petitioner for this discovery, your Petitioner going in danger of his life by the Claimers for several yeares for doing of this service.

Here followeth the Copie of the late King Charles's Letter to the City of London.

To

To Our Trusty and Wel-beloved, Our Lord Mayor *and* Aldermen *of Our City of* London, *and all other Our well-effected Subjects of that City.*

Charles Rex,

TRustie and Well beloved, wee greet you well: When wee remember the many Acts of Grace and Favour Wee and Our Royal Predeceſſors have conferred upon that our Citie of London, *and the many examples of eminent Duty and Loyaltie, for which that City hath been likwiſe famous; Wee are willing to believe (notwithſtanding the great defection wee have found in that place) That all men are not ſo farr degenerate from their affection to Us, and to the peace of the Kingdom, as to deſire a continuance of the miſeries they now feel: And therefore beeing informed, That there is a deſire in ſome principal perſons of that City to preſent a Petition to Us, which may tend to the procuring a good underſtanding between Us and that Our City, whereby the peace of the whole Kingdom may bee procured; Wee have thought fit to let you know, That wee are ready to receive any ſuch Petition, and the Perſons who ſhall bee appointed to preſent the ſame to Us ſhall have a ſafe conduct: And you ſhall aſſure all our good Subjects of that Our City (whoſe hearts are touched with any ſenſe of Duty to Us, or of Love to the Religion and Laws eſtabliſhed; in*

the quiet and peaceable fruition whereof, They and their Anceſtors have enjoyed ſo great Happineſs), That wee have neither paſſed any Act, nor made any Profeſſion or Proteſtation for the maintenance and defence of the true Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of the Subject, which wee will not moſt ſtrictly and religiouſly obſerve; And for the which, wee will not bee alwaies ready to give them any ſecurity that can bee deſired: And of thoſe Our gracious Letters, Wee expect a ſpeedy Anſwer from you. And ſo Wee bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at *Oxford* in the nineteenth year of our Reign, *December* 26. 1643.

By his *Majeſties* Command.
GEORGE DIGBY.

[I do moſt humbly deſire the Common Council of the Citie of *London*, to certifie your Honours, if ever (amongſt all their Records, ever ſince the foundation of their City) they find ſuch a ſad Preſident as mine is; And whether that any Meſſenger from any former King of *England* ſuffered the loſs of his Eſtate (to his damage at this day above twenty thouſand pound, for bringing them or any their Anceſtors the like Letter for peace, as I did from the late KING. And at that time (*viz.* in *December* 30. 1643.) there was ſent and came from *Oxford* the Writs weekly under the Great Seal of *England* without any Countermand: My hard uſage After-

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ages will hardly believe, had I not Printed it to Poſte-rity, that it may ſerve as a warning to prevent other Perſons, from beeing got in the like Snares for the future.] For this cauſe

I Suffered Impriſonment in the *Tower* almoſt four years, for bringing up the aforeſaid Letter from *Oxford* to the Lord Mayor and Common Council of the City of London in *December* 1643. although I had an Order from the Houſ of Commons (as appears by their Journal Book) and a Paſs from the Lord Ge-neral *Eſſex* to go to *Oxford*; for an exchange for Mr. *Heſilrigge*, Sir *Arthur Heſilrige* his Brother, and I left my Exchange with Sir *Arthur Heſilrigge*, about the 2. of *January* 1643. which were both procured for mee by Mr. *Theophilus Ryley* Scout-maſter General of the City of *London*, who was authorized to execute that place by the Common Council of *London*; and I was autho-rized by the ſaid Mr. *Ryley* to do the ſame (Mr. *Ryley* being impowered by the Parliament and Common Council of *London* to hold Intelligence in any the *Kings* Quarters, as by his Orders hee ſhewed me:) Mr. *Ry-ley* was a man of a known & approved Integritie, and in great eſteem with the then Parliament and Citie of *London* at that time, and would not have acted any thing but what was Juſt, and for the Parliaments ſervice, ac-cording to his Truſt. (If hee had thought it other-wiſe, if hee might have gotten a hundred thouſand

pounds, upon my conſcience) and that made mee to act this Buſineſs, to bring up the *Kings* Letter upon his Intreaty (as hee confeſſed upon his Examination;) and I juſtified my doing thereof by his Order, hee beeing a publick Miniſter, and impowered to do it, as hee told mee. And alſo the Committee of both Nations was made acquainted with my going to *Oxford*, for the bringing up the ſaid Letter which I brought from the late King (by Sir *David Watkins* Knight, I deſired him to make the Parliament acquainted therwith, before ever I went to *Oxford*, and to have their approbation;) which Sir *David Watkins* (after he had ſpoken with them) told mee, I had their approbation to go to *Oxford*: And all this was done before any Law or Ordinance was made or declared to forbid mee or any other to do the ſame (that ever I heard of:) or to this day can hear of, and I humbly ſay, That before a Law made, there is no tranſgreſſion, neither by Gods law nor Mans law. And I was not to queſtion Mr. *Ryleys* power, abilities and truſt, conſidering hee acted as a publick Miniſter, but to act according to his direction, ſo long as hee was in the ſaid Office of Scout-maſter, I having his Warrant and approbation for doing what I did. I have never read nor heard of ſo heavy a puniſhment as your Supplicant doth ſuffer under, before a Law made to give a man warning, to take heed how hee Tranſgreſs.

And by the Statutes of 9. *Hen.* 3. *cap* 29. 5 *Edw.* 3. *caps* 9. *and* 28. *Edw.* 3. *cap.* 3. No perſon (of what eſtate

eſtate or condition ſoever hee bee) ſhall bee put out of Land or Tenement, nor taken, nor impriſoned, nor diſ-inherited, without being brought to anſwer by due proceſs of the Law; which I have Petitioned for, by a legal trial many years, but could never obtain the ſame.

May it pleaſ your Honours, Had there been a Proclamation or Act of Parliament at that time to have prohibited mee, I ſhould have then been afraid; beſides, Mr. *Ryley* ſhould never have made mee act againſt a declared *Law*, nor the King neither.

Now, forasmuch as your humble Supplicant having ever ſince his Inlargement out of the *Tower*, made it his daily practice to ſtudy to ſerve the Common-wealth, and doing ſuch remarkable Services (as aforeſaid) for the Common-wealth, I do moſt humbly implore your Honours moſt gratious Order for the reſtoring mee to my aforeſaid eſtate with damages, or the paying your Supplicant the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, according to the promiſe of the Council of State. 1652.

May it pleaſe your Honours, If *I* would have betraied my Truſt to the Common-wealth, about this Silver that was in the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, I could have had every penny of eleven thouſand pounds paid mee by the Claimers of the Silver in thoſe Ships, either in money here, or Bills of Exchange beyond

Seas: that money would have made mee live plentifully in any part of Christendom. *I do most humbly implore your Honours, that I may have such Justice by your Honours goodness and benignity, as I may have cause never to repent of my being faithfull to your Honours and the Commonwealths Interest in this particular, concerning the Silver Ships, their Silver and Lading.*

I most humbly here present an Accompt of what hath been taken from me *Tho. Violet*; for which I most humbly desire satisfaction, with my damages, or the summe of eleven thousand pounds, as was faithfully promised unto me by the most Honourable Councel of State, in *December* and *January* 1652. for staying the silver in the ships *Sampson*, *Salvador*, and *George*, and disproving the *Spanish* Ambassadors Claim to this silver, which was above three hundred

dred thouſand pounds, my damages at this day by the taking my Eſtate 1643. is above twenty thouſand pounds 25. *May* 1659. *viz.*

WHen I was firſt ſent unto the Tower the 6th. of *January* 1643. my mother had of mine good Bonds and Bills in her hands taken away from her at ſeveral times, to the value of one thouſand three hundred and odd pounds; Beſides many of my Papers and accompts of great concernment to the Common-wealth; and as yet I cannot come to the knowledg who hath them: But this I am ſure of, If there had been any thing in them that could have made againſt mee, there had then uſe been made of them.

2. My mother had at another time a Privy Seal taken from her, wherein the late King acknowledged hee owed me (for my expences in diſcovering the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver) nineteen hundred threeſcore and eight pounds, which money I laid every penny out of my own purſe to do the late King and Common-wealth that ſervice; in proſecuting the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, in the Star chamber I cauſed them to be fined twenty fowre thouſand one hundred pounds; beſides ſeveral Merchants and others, who had their pardons from the late King, for tranſport-

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ing Gold and Silver, and melting down the heavieſt Silver Coynes of *England*, *viz.* Alderman Wollaſton, and Alderman Gibbs, Mr. Peter Fountain and ſeveral other Merchants, the terror of which ſentence and puniſhment, for ſome yeers did give a ſtop to tranſporting of Gold and Silver, to the great ſervice and advantage of the Common-wealth, and if the Parliament pleaſe to paſſe the Act againſt Tranſporting Gold and Silver which has twiſe this Parliament been read in the Houſe, and ſeveral times Committed, and impower your Petitioner to ſee to the due execution thereof, your Petitioner will give a ſtop to the Tranſportation of Gold and Silver, and diſcover the Offendors, if a Commiſſion be granted to make enquiry of the ſame, according to former Preſidents in *Richard* the Seconds time, by Act of Parliament.

This Parliament was ſo careful to have theſe Offences proſecuted, that they excepted them out of the general Pardon, being the deſire of the Committee of the Mint, as appears by this following Order.

White-hall-Jan. 24. 1651.

Maſter Attorney Generall.

AT a Committee of the *Councel* of *State* for the Mint, this incloſed exception was preſented to the Committee to have it inſerted in the generall Pardon. The Committee do hold it fit, for the benefit of the *Common-wealth*, to have this exception inſerted

ted in that Pardon, and doe recommend it to you accordingly.

viz.

EXcept all offences done or committed by any perſon or perſons whatſoever, in tranſporting out of *England* any Gold or Silver, in coyne or in bullion without Licenſe, and all other offences in the unlawfull buying, ſelling, exchanging or melting down of any the current gold or ſilver coynes of *England*, or of any gold or ſilver bullion, againſt whom, or for which, any Information is now depending in the Court of Exchequer at *Weſtminſter*.

Ordered that Maſter *Thomas Violet* attend M. Attorney Generall with this Order of the Committee, and alſo the Committee of *Parliament* for drawing the generall Pardon to have theſe offences excepted.

James Harrington.
Herbert Morley.

Your Petitioner did deliver this Order, to Mr. Attorney Generall, and this exception is put into the generall Pardon of this Parliament, as may bee ſeen upon peruſal.

3. The Committee of *Eſſex* put mee out of Poſſeſſion of the Mannors of *Battells* and *Patan*-Hall in *Eſſex*, as appears by their Warrants. Of which Lands I had an Extent of One thouſand pounds, for the payment of five hundred: and one Mr. *Elconhead* received

my rents ever ſince 1643, and never paid the Committee of *Eſſex* any thing, for your Petitioners Extent of five hundred pounds, and the ſame *Elconhead* injoyes your Petitioners Lands in *Eſſex* to this very day, by colour of the Sequeſtration of the Committee of *Eſſex*, to your Petitioners great damage.

4. The Committee of *Shropſhire* ſeized, in my ſiſters hands, in *London*, three Bonds due to mee, in two thouſand pounds for the payment to mee *Thomas Violet* One thouſand pounds, by the Lady *Anne Waad*, *Edmond Lenthal*, *Phillip Cage* and *Charles Mordent* Eſq^rs. 1643. which Bonds were carried to *Shrewsbury*.

5. I had the Leaſ and Extent of ten ſeverall Houſes at the *Poſterne* in *Little Moor-fields*; and the Tennants owed mee, when I was committed to the Tower, in arrears for rent above one hundred pounds: And for theſe ſixteen years, I received no Rent of them. But one Mr. *Elconhead* hath received the Rents of them ever ſince, by colour of a Sequeſtration of the Committee of *Middleſex*.

6. *I had the Office of ſealing and ſurveying of all gold and ſilver Thread and Wyer: which prevented the making of all ſlight and adulterate gold and ſilver Thread, and Wyer, granted to mee under the Great Seal, for three Lives, from the Late King; which Office coſt mee Fifteen hundred pounds (to the Lord Treaſurer* Juxon, *L.* Cottingon, *Sir.* John Cook *Secretary of State, and Sir* John Bankes *the late Kings Attourney. The neceſſitie of keeping up that Office, to prevent the daily Cozenages and frauds of divers Silk-*

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men, Wyerdrawers and Refiners in their making Courſ, ſleight and deceitfull Gold and Silver Wyer and Thread: Your Petitioner formerly preſented unto your Honours, and can prove it that forty thouſand pounds a year in ſilver is waſted, beſides the Wearers daily Cozened for want of a due Regulation of gold and ſilver Thread, and Lace.

And upon the Diſcovery of theſe notorious Cheats, 1635. *(the late King and his Council appointed mee* Surveyor *and* Sealer *of the ſaid Manufacture) I cauſed all the abuſes to bee laid aſide: I indicted ſome offenders, impriſoned ſome, cauſed others to ſtand in the Pillory, and made many of them that wrought adulterate courſ ſilver run away out of* London: *By which means I angred many Cheating Wyerdrawers, Silkmen and Refiners: and the late Kings* Council *and* Commiſſioners *ſetled ſuch Rules and Orders, during the Regulation of the Manufacture, as it was all made of good ſilver, and the Coin and Bullion of this Nation preſerved; and your Supplicant was bound, to the late King, to warrant all the Manufactures either of gold or Silver, Wyer or Thread which hee ſealed, or ſurveyed in the Office, to bee good ſilver, and to make it good to any party grieved in the Nation; as appears by my Patent under the Great Seal of* England. For which Aſſurance, Surveying and Sealing, I was allowed to demand and take an half penny for every ounce Troy, in Wyer, Spangles, Oes, &c. I ſurveyed; and 4 pence for every pound weight Venice, for all the Gold and Silver Thread I ſealed with the Seal of my Office, being the Roſe and Crown. And all that time the gold and ſilver Lace, was as good Silver and as duly aſſaied as the

Plate or Money of the *Nation*, and now it is made under no Rule nor Government, but the Wearers many of them cheated by courſe and deceitfull Lace, Wyer, ſilver Thread, as I can demonſtrate.

7. I had a Grant from the late King, under his Signet, to bee Maſter-worker of the *Mint* in the Tower of *London* for my life, with the Fee of five hundred pounds a year, for executing that place; which Grant was taken from my Mother, out of her Cuſtody, when I was ſent to the Tower.

8. I had one quarter part of the Lady *Villers* Farm at the *Cuſtom-houſe*, for the Importation of all gold and Silver Thread, Hatbands, Lace, and Copper, throughout *England* and *Wales*; which coſt mee, a little before I was ſequeſtred, above ſeven hundred pounds. And if the making gold and ſilver thread was put down in *England*, the Cuſtom of gold and ſilver thread imported would make a farr greater Revenew then now it doth by the Exciſe; and the Manufacture, if it bee made here, ought to bee kept to a ſtrict Regulation. Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Thornbury* I imploied to Collect this duty at the *Cuſtom-houſe*.

9. I ſpent in my *Impriſonment* in the Tower for almoſt four years about eight hundred pounds, reckoning my Fees and Expences, and could never get Juſtice, though I petitioned to the Parliament as aforeſaid, for many years to come to a legall Triall, knowing my ſelf to bee innocent both by God's Law and the Laws of the Land; and by the teſtimony of a good conſci-

ence,

ence, which hath ever ſupported mee in and thorow all theſe great troubles. All this Eſtate was and is Sequeſtred, to this day; (but my three aforeſaid bonds, which I now have in my Cuſtody,) beſides my damage for my four years Impriſonment.

10. Since I came out of the Tower, by order of the *Councel* of State 1652. your Petitioner laid out (in the Proſecution of the Silver Ships, *Sampſon, Salvador,* and *George*) above the ſumme of ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, I borrowed every penny of this money, paying Intereſt for it at this day. And by my Proteſt againſt the Diſcharge of theſe ſilver Ships, *Sampſon, Salvador,* and *George,* and my Diſcoveries thereupon, by many good and legal Witneſſes, Paſſengers and others in theſe Ships: I cauſed all the Silver to become the Commonwealths: All which ſervices I did (upon the faithfull promiſe of the Councel of State) in *Decemb.* 1652 to reſtore mee to all my Eſtate, or the full value of eleven thouſand pounds.

John Corbet *Eſquire, one of the Members of this preſent Parliament at this day, and one of the Committee of* Shropſhire, *meeting with your Petitioner in* March 1655. *was noblie pleaſed to take notice of your Petitioners good endeavours to ſerve the Common-wealth; and ſeeing that your Petitioner had put out in Print, a Liſt of his particular damages, and the particular Bonds, Houſes, Lands, Offices, ſet down, which had been taken from your* Petitioner *his Mother and Siſter, who had then a great part of his eſtate in their Cuſtody, at the time of his impriſonment*

in

in the Tower, and were plundred of it during that time of my Impriſonment there, by the title and name of Sequeſtration.

This Noble Gentleman Mr. Corbet, being very ſenſible of my ſufferings, and how your Petitioners eſtate had bin ſquandred away, was pleaſed to tell your Petitioner he could do him a courteſie, in procuring to your Petitioner three Bonds taken from your Petitioner in two thouſand pounds, for the payment of your Petitioner one thouſand pounds 1644. which Bonds Mr. Corbet told me were at Shrewsbury in Shropſhire, morgaged by that Committee for fourty pounds, which the Committee had laid out for publick uſe.

Your Petitioner was glad to hear where theſe Bonds were, and to know who had them, though they lay in Lavender for fourty pounds, your Petitioner for many yeares making diligent enquiry after them, and had never got true information where they were, had not Mr. John Corbet told him, and it was a thouſand to one that theſe Bonds, being eleven yeares out of your Petitioners Cuſtodie, that your Petitioner ever heard of them, or got them again into his hands.

This Worthy Gentleman Mr. John Corbet adviſed me to make my Application by Petition to his late Highneſſe Oliver Lord Protector, and to his Councel, for to have theſe Bonds reſtored, and that if his late Highneſſe and his Councel would give him order to do it, he wiſhed me ſo well, he would procure your Petitioner theſe three Bonds ſafe and uncancelled, Provided your Petitioner would pay the Committee of Shropſhire for them the ſumme of fourty pounds, which your Petitioner willingly offered to do, whereupon your Petitioner petitioned the late Lord Protector Oliver and his Councel for the aforeſaid three Bonds.

Bonds. *And the Councel of State ordered* John Corbet *Esquire, should attend them, to give them true information of this buſineſſe, which accordingly he did, and thereupon this Order following of the Councel of State was made, and your Petitioner paid his money to Mr.* Corbet *accordingly.*

Friday, March 21. 1655

At the *Counſel* at *White-Hall.*

UPon reading a Report from the Committee (to whom the Petition of *Thomas Violet* was referred) praying that certain Bonds ſeized upon by the Committee of *Salop* may be delivered unto him. Upon conſideration of the ſaid Report, and for that the ſaid Bonds are ingaged for forty pounds, which the ſaid Committee imploied for publique uſe, Ordered by his Highneſſe the Lord Protector and his Counſel, That upon the ſaid *Thomas Violets* paying unto the ſaid Committee the ſaid ſumme of forty pounds, for which the ſaid Bonds are ingaged, That the ſaid Committee bee required to deliver up the ſaid Bonds unto the ſaid *Thomas Violet*, and that hee bee at liberty to ſue the ſame and to take the benefit thereof as formerly hee might have done; and that it bee referred to *John Corbet* Eſq. to ſee the ſaid Bonds delivered up accordingly upon payment of the ſaid forty pounds.

Henry Scobell, *Clerk of the* Counſell.

Mr. *John Corbet* I attended with this order; *March* 28. 1655. Hee was pleaſed to tell mee hee was to go down into *Shropſhire*, and would ſpeak with the Committee who were to receive the forty pounds, and then I ſhould know where to pay my money, for hee told mee hee had never received Publique monies, and hee was verie unwilling to receive any now. But upon his return, upon my earneſt intreaty and to ſave mee from further trouble, hee told mee hee would receive and keep this forty pounds *in d poſito*, for the uſe of the Committee till he had order from them for the diſpoſing of it. That tranſaction follows, *viz.*

MEmorandum, *That the* 24th *of* May 1656. *In obedience to the Order of his* Highneſs *the Lord Protector and his Counſel of the* 21. *of* March 1655. *I John Corbet Eſq. have delivered unto* Thomas Violet *of London Gold-Smith, three Bonds: the firſt bearing date the* 6th *of* June 1638. *of eight hundred pounds, for the payment of four hundred pounds within one year after the death of the Lady* Anne Waad; *in which Bond, the ſaid Lady* Anne Waad, Charles Mordent, Philip Cage, *and* Edmund Lenthal *Eſquires ſtand bound to the ſaid* Thomas Violet: *and one other Bond of the* 6th *of* June 1638. *in ſix hundred pounds, for the payment of three hundred pounds,*

pounds, within two years after the death of the said Lady Anne Waad; *in which the Persons aforesaid stand bound to the said* Thomas Violet: *and one other Bond (of the same date) of six hundred pounds, for the payment of three hundred pounds, within three years after the death of the said Lady* Anne Waad; *in which Bond, the Persons aforesaid stand bound to the said* Thomas Violet; *The summe of forty pounds being paid by the said* Thomas Violet, *according to the said Order.*

JOHN CORBET.

Witnesses then present.
Edward VVatkins.
VVilliam Davis.
Edmund Cogan.
John English Scr.

The Lady Anne Waad *of Battels Hall in Essex died about* May 1643. *And the Bonds are due to mee* Thomas Violet, *at this day as aboveſaid.*

Your Petitioner may justly say his Estate was squandred away, when a thousand pound of good Bonds of your Petitioners lay in lavender for eleven years for forty pounds, and your Petitioner had never known where they had bin, had not Mr. Corbet *tould him, your Petitioners humble Prayer to your Honours is, that seeing your Petitioner hath paid Mr.* Corbet *the forty pounds according to the aforesaid Order, and hath*

these

theſe Bonds ſafe and uncantelled now in his Cuſtody, and in conſideration of your Petitioner *ſervices, in ſtaying this Silver, That your Honours would be pleaſed in part of your* Petitioners *ſatisfaction of eleven thouſand pounds by your Honours Order, to Impower your* Petitioner *by Authority of* Parliament, *to ſhew and Implead theſe Bonds, notwithſtanding any Order of* Parliament *to ſequeſter the ſaid Bonds, and to Impower your* Petitioner *to take out Judgement and Execution thereupon, notwithſtanding any Order or Ordinance to the Committee of* Shropſhire, *or any other Committee Touching or Concerning theſe Bonds.*

And my moſt humble Petition is to *John Corbet* Eſquire, one of the Honourable members of this Parliament, that as hee received my money for the uſe of the Committee of *Shropſhire,* and gave mee the firſt notice and diſcovery in whoſe Cuſtody theſe Bonds were, ſo hee would now bee pleaſed out of his love to Juſtice, to certifie his knowledge of the truth of this Buſineſs, that ſo I may have Releif in this buſineſs according to Juſtice and equity.

Hereafter followeth your Petitioners Petition to *Oliver* Lord Protector, and his Reference thereupon to Col. *Barkſtead,* Alderman *Viner,* Capt. *John Limbery,* Doctor *VValker, &c.*

To

TO HIS

HIGHNESSE

OLIVER LORD PROTECTOR

Of the COMMON-WEALTH of

England, Scotland,

and

Ireland,

And the Dominions thereunto belonging.

The Humble Petition of *Thomas Violet.*

SHEWETH,

THat your Petitioner did about the 8th of Decemb. 1652. deliver unto the Council of State a written Paper wherein was discovered that at that present time a practice and Combination, was set on foot by the then Spanish Ambassador Don Allonso de Cardenas, with several other Merchants both Strangers and Natives, to deceive the State of a great quantity of Silver near fower hundred thousand pounds, which was aboard the Ships Sampson, Salvador, and George, then riding at Enffe.

Which

Which Perſons before-named, had contrived by forged Bills of Lading, falſe Claimes and Claimers, with other fraudulent pretences to get cleared the Court of Admiralty the aforeſaid Silver and Ships, and for the effecting thereof there was no Coſt ſpared nor Stone left unturned, as appeared by intercepted Letters of Mr James Steniere, *a principal Actor to have this Silver cleared, which Letters cauſed the ſaid Mr.* Steinere *to be Commited to the Serjeant at Armes attending the* Parliament, *and by* Mr. Pompey Callendrens *Letter there was fifty in the hundred offered in* Amſterdam, *to enſure the ſaid Silver and Ships out of our hands.*

Many of the Council of State *did upon the intercepting theſe Letters concerning the Silver Ships, believe that the* Spaniſh Ambaſſador *had, for a peece of money to be paid him, claimed this Silver as the* King *of* Spaines *Treaſure and his Subjects, colourably, but they knew not which way to diſcover it, and to prove the fraud, that ſo the* State *might have the Silver as Prize; (there lay the miſtery) that then the Council could not fathom, and that made the Lord* Bradſhawe *and ſeverall of the Council of* State *to ingage your Supplicant in this ſervice, they telling your Petitioner that if this fraude was to be found out, they were aſſured your Petitioner could do it, if your Petitioner would be true to the* State, *whereupon your Petitioner did faithfully promiſe the Council of* State *his uttermoſt endeavours to diſcover this fraud, and within three dayes after your Petitioner hearing the* Parliament *had made an Order upon the requeſt of the* Spaniſh Ambaſſador, *for the Judges of the* Admiralty *to proceed to a ſpeedy ſentence concerning theſe Ships and Silver; thereupon about 8th of Decemb. 1652. your Petitioner made*

made the Lord Bradſhaw and Council acquainted, that hee had certain Intelligence and would prove it upon the perill of his Life by many credible Witneſſes, that a great part of this Silver appertained to ſeverall Merchants of the united Provinces, and that theſe Ships having unfree Goods in them, were by the Civill Law forfeited to the State, and upon the aforeſaid Paper which your Petitioner delivered into the Council of State, the Council of State ſent for Doctor Walker your Highneſs Advocate, who told the Council of State that if what was alleadged in that Paper could bee made good, the Ships ſhould bee ſtayed let the Judges ſay what they pleaſed.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs. The Judges of the Admiraltie appointed 16th Decemb. 1652. to give ſentence for the Clearing or Condemning theſe Ships, Sampſon, Salvador, and George, and they ordered the Commiſſioners for Dutch prize Goods to bee then in the Court, but the Commiſſioners Mr. Hill and Mr. Wilſon declared unto your Supplicant the day before they were to attend in the Admiralty, that they were Merchants, and a great part of their Goods and Eſtates in Spaine, and therefore they durſt not for feare of having an Imbargo on their Eſtates in Spaine bee ſeen in the Court of Admiralty to ſtopp theſe Silver Ships, but they earneſtly prayed and adviſed your Petitioner, that if hee knew any way to entitle the State to the Silver in thoſe Ships, hee ſhould doe the Common-wealth very great and acceptable ſervice, and ſave the State all the Silver, which otherwiſe would be diſcharged that morning; for then there was no other perſon appeared to ſtay theſe ſhips and ſilver, but your Supplicant, either at the Councel of State, or with Doctor VValker your Highneſſe Advocate,

vocate, *And this Doctor* VValker *knowes to be a truth.*

In purſuance of entituling the State *to this ſilver in the aforeſaid ſhips, your Supplicant received a Command from the Counſel of* State 13. Decemb. 1652. *That if your Supplicant would undertake at his own peril to diſprove the Spaniſh Ambaſſadours Claim, and to prove that great quantities of the ſilver in the aforeſaid ſhips, appertained to Merchants of the united* Provinces, *and* Amſterdam, *by good and legal Witneſſes, That then notwithſtanding the Order of Parliament, your Petitioner ſhould make his* Proteſt *in the Court of Admiraltie, againſt the diſcharge of the ſaid ſilver, till his Witneſſes were examined. The Councel of State declaring, that if the Judges of the Court of Admiralty committed your* Petitioner *for making his* Proteſt, *then the Councel would preſently hear, and take cognizance of the ſame buſineſſe. The Councel of State further declared, that if your Supplicant ſhould faile to make good what he had undertaken, he would be utterly undone, for that they would certifie your* Petitioner *to be an Incendiary, in preſuming to contradict the Spaniſh Ambaſſadour, and Duke* Leopoldus *Agents, in affirming the ſilver belonged for a great part thereof to Merchants of* Amſterdam, *when the Ambaſſadour on his honour affirmed it was all for his Catholick-Majeſtie, and his Subjects Accompts, and none other. But if your Petitioner was ſo aſſured, as he would venture his life, liberty, and eſtate, to diſprove the Spaniſh Ambaſſadour, and Duke* Leopoldus *Agents claim, and prove great quantities thereof to appertain to the Dutch of the united Provinces then our enemies, by good and legal proof, and did perform this his undertaking, your Petitioner ſhould not only be reſtored to all his eſtate the Parliament had taken from him,*

him, being about eleven thousand pounds, for which summe your Petitioner had for severall yeares before Petitioned the Parliament and Council of State) but also your Petitioner should have both that Estate and a good reward over and above for his good service, and this Promise your Supplicant had from the Council of State and the Committee for forreign affaires, and that they would see your Supplicant justly and truely satisfied, and upon this Honourable assurance your Petitioner engaged and undertooke this great service, and when your Supplicant Petitioned the Council of State, for an Order of the Council or Parliament in writing for the States just performance, when hee had proved that great quantities of this Silver aboard the three aforesaid Ships appertained to the Dutch the Committee of forreign affaires, and the Lord Bradshaw was much offended that your Supplicant should scruple the Justice of the State, as not to bee fully rewarded according to the greatness of the service, Protesting it could not enter into the heart of any honest man to scruple or suspect the Council of State so ungratefull, as not to performe there promise justly with your Petitioner, and had that Council of State continued in power, your Supplicant is assured in his Conscience that hee had receeived every penny of the summe promised, being eleven thousand pounds out of the monies as it was Coyned.

The reasons that the Council of State did not give your Petitioner a written Order for the restoration of your Petitioners Estate, or the value being eleven thousand pounds, was that if it was done either by the Order of Parliament or Council of State, then the Spanish Ambassador and other Nations would know,

that

that the Council of State had ſtayed that Silver contrary to an Order of Parliament, and had promiſed a reward to your Petitioner to make this diſcovery before the ſervice done, which the Lord Bradſhaw told your Supplicant at the Council-Board the Council would not (to get all the Silver in the Ships) bee knowne to make an agreement, to finde out Witneſſes to have the buſineſſe done, but that your Supplicant might reſt aſſured on juſt and Honourable dealings, and the reſtoration of his Eſtate or eleven thouſand pounds, If your Petitioner did by good and legall Witneſſes diſprove the Spaniards Claim to this Silver in the aforeſaid Ships.

Your Supplicant having proceeded ſo farre as to make his Proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie, againſt the diſcharge of theſe Ships and Silver, hee was neceſſitated to proceed to make his diſcovery, or elſe the undertaking it had undone him for ever, and your Petitioner acquainted the Council that to proceed in this diſcovery would bee very Chargeable, and your Supplicant being under ſequeſtration, unſupportable, but no allowance of money could bee obtained till your Petitioner had intituled the State to the Silver; and this being done on your Supplicants part, the Council ſaid your Petitioner might reſt aſſured of juſt and Honourable performance, for the payment of your Petitioners eleven thouſand pounds or his Eſtate.

Your Petitioner being at or about that time, ſeverall times offered by ſome Merchants of Flanders, Claimers of great quantities of the Silver, That if your Petitioner would deſiſt and not proſecute this buſineſs in the Court of Admiraltie, hee ſhould have paid him downe the ſumme of ten thouſand pounds, either in money here, or in Bills of Exchange, upon

the

the discharge of the Ships and Silver, but your Petitioner refused the offers of the Merchants, and made the Lord Bradshawe *and the Council acquainted therewith, and valued more the safety and Honour of the Nation, and his own reputation in this undertaking, then the* Spanish *Merchants money, relying wholly on the promise of the Council of State for his just reward and satisfaction.*

Your Supplicants Expence and Charges in the prosecuting this business, in one year and a halfs time amounted to above five hundred pounds, besides what summes of money your Supplicant hath since expended, hee having imployed constantly ten severall persons, some of them lived in Spaine *and* Holland, *and severall monthes your* Petitioner *imployed severall Merchants and others in the Registry of the Admiralty, to inspect into all proceedings, Claimes, Exhibites, pleadings, Bills of Lading, and comparing many thousand sheetes of paper and writing, and translating many Bills of Lading and other transactions, all which your Petitioner did by the Command of the Council of State, and upon Warrants and Orders of your* Highness *Advocate Doctor* Walker; *Your Supplicant also imployed severall persons about* Eriffe, Limehouse, Blackwall, Wapping, *and S^t^.* Katherines, *to finde out where the Seamen and Passengers of these Ships lay, paying all charges of their meetings, boate-hire, writing and transcribing all the proceedings, and printing them for the Parliament, to vindicate the Justice of the Nation in staying this Silver and Ships, for it is proved out of the mouthes of severall Passengers that came from* Spaine *that very Voyage.* That vast and great quantities of this Silver appertained to the Dutch, and was delivered

in *Spaine* aboard theſe Ships for the accompts of Marchants of *Amſterdam*, and by the Originall Letters under the *States* generall Seale to their vice Admiralls de Witt and de Rutter, *remaining now in your* Highneſſe *Court of Admiralty, commanding them to Convoy and guard theſe Ships from the Parliaments Forces, and theſe Commiſſions or Letters were procured upon the Petition of the Merchants of Amſterdam, and by ſeverall advices remaining in the Court of Admiralty, theſe Ships and Silver were bound for* Holland, *It is proved that when theſe three Ships firſt ſet Sale to go their Voyage, they went from* Holland, *and the Ports and Harbours of the united Provinces, alſo that ſeverall Merchants in* London *for their own proper accompts, had Silver Laden aboard theſe Ships this Voyage in* Spain, *which cleerely diſproves the* Spaniſh Ambaſſadors *Claime to all the Silver in theſe Ships, to bee only for his Maſter and his Subjects accompts, for Merchants Natives of* London *are not the King of* Spaines *Subjects, It is alſo proved that ſeverall parcells of Silver aboard theſe Ships, were entered, and Bills made in feined names and colourably, to avoyd the taking and condemnation of the Silver and of theſe Ships, if they were taken by the* Engliſh.

It is alſo proved, that although the Bills of Lading were for Oaſtend, *yet the Silver was conſigned to Amſterdam. It is likewiſe proved by ſeverall Paſſengers, that when theſe Ships had bin ten dayes at Sea, and hearing of the Warrs betweene the* Engliſh *and the* Dutch, *the Maſters Books were altered, and all the* Hollanders *and* Zelanders *names were put out, and other names put in their ſtead, and after three times*

peruſall

peruſall and examination of the names, the Bookes were written out faire (which were the Bookes produced in the Court of Admiraltie) And the originall blotted Bookes, which were the true Bookes, were not to bee found, but when theſe Ships came into the Downes, *the* Purſer *of the Ship* Sampſon, *tooke them and tyed them to an Iron Barr, and then threwe them into the Sea.*

Theſe particulers with many others, are the volontary confeſſions of ſeverall Paſſengers in theſe Ships, being actors and parties in Spain, *and privie to all theſe actions both in* Spaine *and on Shipboard, and the Confeſſion of* Dutch-men *and Eaſterlings.*

Your Petitioner hath humbly preſented theſe prooſes and Witneſſes to ſhewe the greatneſs of your Supplicants ſervice, and the Juſtice of the Nation *in ſtaying and confiſcating this Silver, ſo that it now cleerely appeares, the Claime of the* Spaniſh Ambaſſador *to this Silver, was but a fraudulent practice in him to have cozened the State, and cheated them of all this great Treaſure.*

This buſineſs your ſupplicant effected with the aſſiſtanee of tenn other perſons, in a year and halfes conſtant attendance, ſitting up many daies and nights together, when your Petitioner firſt undertooke this ſervice, being daily threatned to bee murthered by the Claimers, and expending above five hundred pounds in this ſervice.

All which particulers of your Petitioners proſecuting this buſineſs, and the charges hee was at for doing the ſame, is atteſted upon the Oathes of four credible Witneſſes, who were imployed in this ſervice, and were privie to your Petitioners expence.

Which five hundred pounds your Petitioner borrowed, and hath ever ſince continued at intereſt, and is now above ſeven hundred pounds; Severall Gentlemen lending the ſame to your Petitioner out of their good will to the Nation in generall, and that your Petitioner might bee reſtored to his Eſtate againe, and had not your Petitioner borrowed this money to enable him to do this ſervice, your Highneſſe *and the Parliament had loſt every penny of this Silver, being about three hundred thouſand pounds.*

Never any man as yet, brovght and ſaved your Highneſſe, *and the Parliament ſo much money at one time in any age, as your Supplicant hath heard of, or read of.*

Your Petitioner truſts and hopes in God, and your Highneſſe, *that ſo great ſervice to your* Highneſſe *and the Nation, ſhall not go unrequited.*

What ſervice this Treaſure did your Highneſſe, *and the Nation at that conjuncture of time in* 1653. Chriſtendom *knows, the* Dutch *(then our Enemies felt) and this Nation (under your* Highneſſe *government) do enjoy and have the happy fruit of at this day.*

Your moſt humble Petitioner *prayes your Highneſſe to take all the* Premiſſes *into your* Princely *conſideration. And that your Petitioner may have his eſtate, or the value thereof reſtored to him, in recompence of his ſervices aforeſaid. And your Petitioner ſhall ever pray, &c.*

THO. VIOLET.

White-

Whitehall, July 13. 1657.

His Highneſſe is pleaſed to referr this Petition to Sr. *John Barkeſtead* Knight, Lievtennant of the Tower of *London*, Sr. *Thomas Viner* Knight, Captaine *John Limbery*, Doctor *Walker*, *Gabriell Becke*, Serjeant *Dendy*, *Maurice Thompſon*, Serjeant *Middleton*, and *Iſaac Doriſlaus* Eſquires, or any three or more of them, to take the Petition within written into their conſideration, examine the premiſſes, and to State and Certifie the caſe to his *Highneſſe*, together with their opinions upon the whole matter.

Fol: 231. Fra: Bacon

Here followeth an Atteſtation of my Proteſting in the Court of Admiraltie againſt the Judges, clearing and diſcharging the ſaid Silver and Ships, and againſt the Spaniſh *Ambaſſadors Claims, juſt that Morning as they were diſcharging of the Ships and Silver, being the ſixteenth day of* Decemb. 1652. *as appears by the Certificate of the Officers of the Mint under their hands,* viz.

WE, whoſe names are here under-written, hereby certifie all whom it may concern, that we were preſent in the Court of Admiralty that day the Judges

Judges of the Court were reported to proceed to a ſentence for the clearing or condemning of the ſhips *Salvador*, *George*, and *Sampſon*,) it being about the ſeventeenth of *Decemb.* 1652. And there we ſaw Mr. *Thomas Violet*, the ſame day in the Court preſent a Paper unto the Judges, which he declared contained ſeveral Reaſons and Arguments to the Judges; for reſpiting their Judgment concerning the diſcharging of thoſe ſhips, and ſeveral other Prizes, till he had examined ſeveral Witneſſes on the behalf of the State, to diſprove the *Spaniſh* Claimes concerning theſe Ships, at which time the ſilver was aboard theſe Ships: *After ſome time ſpent in arguing the buſineſs by Mr.* Violet *in behalf of the State, the Judges ſeeming to proceed to a ſentence concerning the ſaid Priſe Ships,* Mr. Thomas Violet *made his Proteſt in the ſaid Court of Admiraltie againſt the diſcharge of all or any of theſe Priſes, declaring hee did it upon his owne accompt, till his Witneſſes were examined in the behalf of the State: And that the Judges, if they ſhould proceed to the contrary, ſhould anſwer it to the Parliament and Council of State at their peril.* Thereupon the Court deſiſted from proceeding in the ſaid Buſineſſe; and the Judges thereof required Mr. *Violet* to attend the Councel of State that afternoon, about his carriage that day in the Court of Admiraltie, touching theſe ſhips.

Dated at the *Mint* in the Tower of London, December 23. 1654.

Signed { *George Brett.*
Thomas Burch.
James Hoore.

Here follow the *Affidavits* and *Certificates* of the truth of *Thomas Violets* Service, made by honeſt men of clear reputation, (Merchants and others) that he emploied, and were privie to the whole Proceedings in the Admiralty and other parts of this Nation: and by what wayes and meanes he made theſe Diſcoveries, to entitle the State to this Silver, and diſprove the Spaniſh Ambaſſadours, and the *Spaniards* Claims. The *Affidavits* follow; *viz.*

John Glover of *London* Merchant, aged about fourty years, maketh Oath, That Mr. *Thomas Violet*, having ſince *December* 1652. received ſeveral Orders and Warrants from his Highneſſes Councel, and *Doctor Walker* (Advocate for the Common-wealth,) to aſſiſt in the behalf of the Common-wealth, againſt the Silver ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and all their Silver and lading: In purſuance of which ſervice the ſaid Mr. *Violet* hath conſtantly intreated his (this Deponents) aſſiſtance, (amongſt

(amongſt ſeveral other perſons which he the ſaid Mr. *Violet* emploied) for making diſcovery of the ſeveral frauds and practices of the Maſters of thoſe ſhips, and of ſeveral other Merchants, Claimers of the Silver and lading in the aforeſaid ſhips, to deceive the State by their ſeveral Claims; And alſo of the ſeveral Bills of lading, and in ſeveral other particulars: in purſuance of this ſervice for the Common-wealth, for ſeveral moneths this Deponent, with one Mr. *Simon Baldwine* a Merchant, who lived a long time at *Cades* and St. *Lucars* in *Spain*, and with Mr. *Violet* this Deponent and they two did veiw and examine all the Bills of lading, and the ſeveral pleas and Exhibits, Extracts, and all other writings and papers which were brought in, and remain in the Regiſtrie of the Admiraltie concerning theſe ſhips, ſilver and lading; the Regiſter declaring that they had ſeen all the Tranſactions that was then upon record in that buſineſs, which were many thouſand ſheets; and that the ſaid Mr. *Violet* had ſeveral Warrants from Doctor *Walker* to the Regiſter and Examiners of the Admiralty, to require them, that the ſaid Mr. *Violet*, and all ſuch as he ſhould nominate under his hand to the ſaid Regiſter and Examiner, ſhould be impowered to make ſeveral Searches, which he this Deponent and the reſt did almoſt every day for about three moneths: And this Deponent further maketh Oath, That after he and the reſt had taken ſuch Obſervations and Directions, as Mr. *Thomas Violet* had given order concerning the marks of ſeveral Bills of Lading, and ſeveral other particulars, both Mr. *Simon Baldwin*,

Baldwine and this Deponent delivered the Papers up to Mr. *Violet*, hee having imployed and contented us for our pains. This Buſineſs concerning the ſhips and ſilver, this Deponent came to be ingaged in at the requeſt and entreaty of the ſaid Mr. *Violet*, hee having heard how neceſſary and advantagious hee (this Deponent) ſhould bee, in making this diſcovery of the truth of this buſineſs; For that this Deponent for many years was an Inhabitant and merchants in *Rotterdam*, and had Commerce and Trade with moſt Townes in *Holland*, where Trading was ſtirring. *And this Deponent know's many of the marks of the Bills of Lading of theſe Silver Ships, though they pretend to belong to Spaniards, Hamburgers and Flaunders, yet they are the ſame marks as divers Merchants of* Holland *give to their goods and Merchandize; And that ſince the War with* Holland, *divers Ships and their lading have been condemned in the Admiraltie, and made prize of, which had Silver and merchandize aboard them at the time of the condemning, with the ſame markes which are in theſe Ships* (Sampſon Salvador *and* George); *And this Deponent further depoſeth, That hee knoweth the ſaid Mr.* Violet *imployed (beſides Mr.* Simon Baldwin,) *ſeveral other people for the making theſe diſcoveries ever ſince* Decemb. 1652. *And this Deponent hath been imployed by the ſaid Mr.* Violet *in this buſineſs for almoſt a year and a half in the finding out and ſearching this buſineſs; and the ſaid Mr.* Violet *hath to his (this Deponents) knowledg, expended very great ſummes of monie in proſecution thereof, to the value of above five hundred pounds, beſides all his pains, attendance and haz-*

zard; this Deponent having heard him ſeveral times threatned and in danger of his life by ſeveral Merchants and others, Claimers of the Silver in theſe Ships: they having declared in this Deponents preſence, That by the ſaid Violets *proteſting in the Court of Admiraltie againſt the diſcharge of theſe Ships and Silver in* Decemb. *1652. the day the Judges appointed for diſcharging the Ships and Silver, (and by his further proſecution againſt thoſe Ships and Silver ſince) hee hath been and is the onely cauſe of hindering them of their Silver and Ships; And that they had had their Silver long ſince, had not* Thomas Violet *undertaken the proſecution of this Buſineſs.* And this, this Deponent hath heard affirmed ſeveral times by merchants and others, claimers, both at the Exchange and elſewhere. And this Deponent maketh Oath, That this *Affidavit* is for the affirming and juſtifying of Mr. *Violets* pains, hazzard and ſervice in proſecution of this Buſineſs of the Silver ſhips and Lading.

Sworn the 27th *November* 1654. before mee
ROBERT KELLEWAY, *Maſter of the Chancery in Ordinary.*

John Glover.

Both ſworn the 25. of *Novemb.* 1654. before me
JOHN PAGE.

Thomas Ley
John Gerrel.

Sworn the 17. of *February* 1653. before me
JOHN PAGE.

Simon Baldwin.

A

A Coppie of my Letter ſent to the Lord Bradſhaw. 25th of March 1653.

May it pleaſe your Honour,

I Have left with Colonel Harbert Morley this day my Petition to the Council of State againſt Otho George: I humbly deſire your honour to take notice, if the Council of State do not take ſome preſent order in it, to conſider what encouragement my ſelf or any man that ſerves the Commonwealth in the diſcovery of the Ships, ſilver and Merchandize now brought in as Dutch prize ſhall have when they ſhall bee aſſaulted in the ſtreets with Stilettoes and Poniards from Cap: Otho George, for being inſtrumentall to do the State ſervice: I have been adviſed by ſeveral friends for this eight dayes, not to come to the Exchange or Admiraltie, leaſt I ſhould bee murthered for undertaking this buſineſs, Mr. Joachim Peſſer Chirurgeon upon the Ship Sampſon, now riding at Eriff, of which Ship Otho George is Captaine, and Jacob Elaes Otho George his Cabbin Boy, hath diſcovered the Silver in the Ships, Sampſon, Salvador and George, that a great part thereof belongs to the Dutch For when they had been ten daies at Sea, the Purſer was ordered by the Captain to go into the Fore-Caſtle, and take his Book and blot out all the names of the Hollanders and Zealanders, and, in their place, to inſert abundance of other names: for which diſcovery Captain Otho George did ſtab the Chirurgeon of the Ship. My humble prayer to your Honour is, That the examinations taken about

this buſineſs before the Lord Mayor *of* London, *in the preſence of Mr.* Will. Reymes, John Carleton, Jonathan Symonds, *Theſe Examinations will informe you at large.*

Your Honors humble ſervant

THO. VIOLET.

To Our moſt worthy friend John Thurloe *Eſquire, at* White-hall, *theſe preſent.*

The Commiſſioners for Prize Goods Letter *to Mr.* Thurloe.

Mr. Thurloe,

WEE have a certaine diſcovery that a great quantity of Gold and Silver hath been ſtolne out of the Dutch prize ſhips that call themſelves *Hamburgers*, wee deſire, for the ſervice of the State, to have a Warrant to bring all the Bullion in the Dutch priſe-ſhips on ſhoare; Wee have here encloſed ſent you Mr. *Thomas Violets* Letters to us, and his proofes taken in the Office; every houres delay of not taking the Silver a ſhoare is great loſſe to the State; Wee finde Mr. *Violet* the bearer hereof, very active and knowing to make theſe diſcoveries, and he hath done ſeveral good, and great ſervices for the State already in this buſineſſe, We

deſire

desire you to present the same to the Councel of State, We are Sir,

Dated Dutch prize.
Office, Decemb. 18. 1652.

Your very Friends and Servants,
Samuel Wilson, Richard Hill.

A Warrant of Doctor *Walkers*, to the Examiners Mr. *How*, and Mr. *Arnold* in the Court of Admiralty,

December 1. 1653.

Master How *and Mr* Arnold, *in the busines of the three ships,* Sampson, Salvador, *and* George, *and the Silver and Lading in those ships, Mr* Violet *was ordered to contribute and yield his assistance, to bring in Evidence on the behalf of the* Common-wealth. *I did heretofore signe a Warrant, that all the Proceedings might be shewed him: He now desires, that the names of all the Witnesses already produced on the behalf of the State, as also the Allegations and Matter upon which they were produced: as likewise, the names of all Witnesses produced on the behalf of the Claimers; and every one of them particularly, and the Allegations and Interrogatories upon which they have been produced, might be shewen to him.*

This

I pray your Honours to conſider, whether I could employ men in this Diſcovery for two yeares, and not to pay them for their paines, and yet I have not had one penny for this ſervice.

Doctor *Walker* knew that I employed many people every day in theſe Diſcoveries, ſeveral of theſe being often with me, both at the Admiralty, and at his chamber; and he knew, I imployed none in this buſineſſe but credible perſons, as appears here under his hand.

And could Doctor *Walker* have made this Diſcovery, or known the tricks of theſe Merchants, Maſters of ſhips, and Purſers, by forged bills, and many other ſubtilties of Trade, which is not in his Law-books, but is common amongſt the Dutch Merchants in theſe times. Dr *Walker* would have ſaved me the labour and charge for employing people to make this Diſcovery, or from making my Proteſt in the Admiralty, and would have had the credit and thanks from the State for this Service and Diſcovery to himſelf. But this I dare ſay, though he be a great Lawyer, yet for the making of this Diſcovery, he was then 16. *Decemb.* 1652. utterlie ignorant of the way to do it, this being a ſubtilty amongſt a few Merchants, and not to be read in the Civil Law-books, and had I not had all my Intelligence from their own creatures, and plowed with their Heifer, I could not have done this ſervice, or made this Diſcovery.

This that he deſires being juſt, I deſire that you would not put him off, but let it be done forthwith unto himſelf, and all ſuch others as he under his hand ſhall nominate; for he employes others under him in ſearching into this buſineſſe. He will nominate none but ſuch as may be truſted in it. And I deſire you in your ſeveral places to give him, and all that he ſhall employ, all ready diſpatch and encouragement, that the buſineſſe of the Common-wealth may finde no obſtacle. Where there is publication, you may likewiſe ſhew him the Depoſitions, and (I pray) let nothing that is juſt be denied him.

3. *Septemb.* 1653.

Walter Walker.

And upon examination of this buſineſs at the Councel of State, Doctor *Walker* confeſſed that it was not his ſtudy nor his place to ſeek up and down to procure Witneſſes, or to finde out waies to entitle the State to this Silver; and except I could bring legal Witneſſe, the State muſt loſe this

this Treasure: this hee declared several times before the Councel of State.

But if the Passengers did confesse this Silver to be loaden, a great part of it for the accompt of Merchants of *Amsterdam*, as I had undertaken they would do, then hee would improve that Testimony to the uttermost for the States advantage, which indeed Doctor *Walker* did.

And I proved these frauds by the testimony of about ten of the Passengers, being all Dutchmen, *Hamburgers* and *Lubeccars*, and other Hanse-towns men; and I had above fourscore witnesses the Passengers and Merchants more to examine in this businesse, many of them were after packed away by the Claimers, being Dutch marriners, and had money given them that they should keep out of the way and not be examined, and several Witnesses waited many daies to be examined in the Admiralty and could not.

Spanish Gold and Silver was plentifully bestowed on some in the Admiralty, and they loved it well. The Claimers had their Instruments almost every night that stole silver out of these ships, to the value of many score thousand pounds, which I discovered to the Councel of State, as appeared by several papers which I presented to them.

I imployed several men who spake the Dutch Language at my own charge, and gave them money to go on ship-board, and to drink freely with the Dutch marriners, and in their cups to fish out the secrets of this businesse, and when I had once got the end of the string, I would by other engines and instruments closely follow and never give it over till I knew the whole bottom of the Flemmish and Spanish cheats which they intended to put upon the Nation.

These men that I imployed on ship-board for to make this Discovery for mee never appeared to mee in the Admiralty, lest the Spanish and Dutch Merchants and marriners should have discovered them to have been my spies. And to deal clearly with your Honours, they were none of them Book-men, Civilians, nor Lawyers, but such persons as be-*skellom'd* mee soundly in their cups with the Dutch marriners; and though I paid for the *Brandey*-wine, strong beer, Mum, and Spruce beere, pickle Herrings and Holland cheese, yet I never expected from them good word or peny of money for all this charge and pains.

If I were to do the like service again for the State, I would never look in any Books of the Civil Law, but consult with such persons as know how to humour a Dutch Skipper or marriner, and fish out his secrets. Thus have I clearly told you the waies and instruments I used to do the Common-wealth this great service. I now humbly expect according to the Councel of States promise the summe of eleven thousand pounds for this service. And had I not undertaken it the Common-wealth had lost this Silver, which was to the value of two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds.

3. *Sept.*

3 September, 1653.

MAster *Doriſlaus* and M. *Bud* are now again deſired to deliver unto Mr. *Violet* a Copie of the Specifications given in by the Maſters and Commanders of the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*: as likewiſe, Copies of all the Pleadings Articulate Exhibited and admitted on the part of the Claimers of the Silver in any of theſe ſhips: And they are to go with him to the Regiſter, and Examiners Offices; and to procure him a view of all the Bills of Lading, Extracts and Exhibites, either brought into the Office, or exhibited by any Claymers: And whatever Papers are, or ſhall bee exhibited by any Claimers in the three Ships. I do, as *Advocate* for the *Common-wealth*, deſire Mr. *Doriſlaus* to yeild all his endeavours and aſſiſtance, and alſo the Regiſter, Examiner, and Deputy-Regiſter in the Admiraltie from time to time to give Mr, *Violet* free admittance and view of all Acts, Bills of Lading, and Pleas Exhibited, and Extracts and Papers remaining in the Regiſtry, or which ſhall come in: And to it readily and effectually; the ſame tending to the ſervice of the *Common-wealth*; and being in order for preparing the Evidence fit to be produced for the *Common-wealth*. And I do, according to the Order of the *Councel of State* of the Firſt of September, 1653, *earneſtly deſire and Entreat* M^r. Violet, and alſo the Commiſſioners for Prize goods, and their Solli-

I am in this Letter, by order of the Councel of State to Doctor *Walker*, entreated to make this Diſco-

citors

citors and Agents; as alſo, the Proctor and Silicitors for the *State*, and every one of them, with all convenient ſpeed, ſeverally to ſet down in Writing all the Informations that they reſpectively know of, or can finde: And all the Evidences and Proofs that may be diſcerned or produced on the part of the *Common-wealth*; That ſo a full Plea and Articulate Allegation may be prepared, and the Proofs brought in for the *Common-wealth*: And no Default bee done, ſuffered, or Committed

3. *Septemb.* 1653.

Walter Walker.

very, but now I have done the States-work with the hazard of my life, and vaſt expence, I cannot by Petitions, Certificates, or Prayers, and many yeares attendance, get to be paid my moſt dearly earned reward which the Councel promiſed me, being eleven thouſand pounds; had I thought of this uſage, I could have bin paid by the Claimers.

If this diſcovery had bin ſo eaſily made, and had bin every bodies work to have found out the *Spaniards* Frauds, I ſhould not have had theſe earneſt Entreaties from Dr. *Walker*, according to the Orders of the *Councel of State*, of the 1. of *Septemb.* 1653. The Commiſſioners for Prize-Goods, have certified to Mr Secretary *Thurloe*, how active and knowing they found me to make theſe Diſcoveries; and had I not been ſo, the Nation had loſt every peny of this great Treaſure, amounting to above two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds.

Here follows the Referrees Letter, with their deſires to my Lord *Bradſhaw*.

WHereas by an Order of Reference from his Highneſſe the Lord Protector, dated the 13th. of *July* 1657. the Petition of Mr. *Thomas Violet*, (concerning his ſtaying the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, and therein the Dutch ſilver) is referred to the conſideration of Sir *Thomas Vyner*, and Sir *John Barkſtead* Knights, Captain *John Limbrey*, Doctor *Walker*, *Gabriel Beck*, *Maurice Thomſon*, *Edward Dendy*, *Henry Middleton*, and *Iſaac Doriſlaus* Eſquires, or any three or more of them, who according to the ſaid Order of Reference, are to examine, ſtate and certifie the premiſſes, contained in the ſaid Petition to his Highneſſe, together with their opinion upon the whole matter. And whereas upon reading the ſaid Petition, of the ſaid Mr. *Thomas Violet*, there are many particulars of ſervice alledged by the Petitioner, which he affirms the Lord *Bradſhaw* to have knowledge of; It is therefore deſired, in order to a ſpeedy and effectual proceeding upon the ſaid Petition, That *Gabriel Beck* Eſquire, Mr. Serjeant *Dendy*, or either of them, will take the paines to wait upon the Lord *Bradſhaw*, and in the names of the above-ſaid Referrees, to Preſent the Petition and Reference relating to the ſaid *Thomas Violet*, with the deſire of the ſaid Referrees, That his Lordſhip upon peruſal of the ſame, will be pleaſed to certifie his knowledge of the premiſſes, dated the one and twentieth day of *Auguſt* 1657.

Tho. Vyner.
Jo. Barkſtead.
Jo. Limbrey.
Maurice Thomſon.

This ſame Letter, which theſe aforeſaid Referrees writ to the *Lord Bradſhaw*, the Referrees out of their love to Juſtice, and to know the Truth; were pleaſed to write to Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Fleetwood*, and *Francis Allen* Eſquire, and ſent them Copies of your Petitioners Petition and Reference, ſubſcribed by the aforeſaid Referrees, that ſo theſe Honourable Gentlemen, upon the peruſal of your Petitioners Petition, and the Reference, thereupon would alſo be pleaſed to certifie their knowledge of the Premiſſes to the aforeſaid Referrees, which they all of them were honourably pleaſed to certifie accordingly.

For which Juſtice of theirs I am bound to pray for every one of them, the like great Obligations your Petitioner owes to the following Referrees, let the iſſue of this Buſineſs be what God pleaſe, I have learned to ſubmit unto his Providence, I am as clay in the Potters hands.

And though I was very unwilling to print theſe Certificates and the Referrees report to their late Highneſſes Oliver and Richard, knowing theſe Honourable Gentlemen love to do the oppreſſed right for conſcience ſake, without blowing a Trumpet not looking for thanks from men, that ſo God may reward them openly.

Yet the preſent poſture of my buſineſs is ſuch, that to demonſtrate the many ſervices your Petitioner hath done this Common-wealth, your Honours ſhall ſee it certified under the hands of twenty four Honourable and Credible perſons, the Originalls I have ready to produce, I humbly crave pardon of theſe Honourable

Gentlemen for doing thereof without acquainting them therewith, it is both by the Lawes of God and this Nation, that out of the mouth of two VVitneſſes every thing, ſhall bee eſtabliſhed, both for mens Eſtates and Lifes by the Laws of this Land a Jury of twelve perſons either quit or condemn all perſons of what degree ſoever.

For your Honours Information, your Honours upon the peruſal of theſe Certificates would ſee a concatenation of faithfull and difficult ſervice, which your Petitioner at his great expence, charge, trouble, and loſſe of time, from the very houre your Petitioner was diſcharged out of the Tower, *viz.* 1647 to the year 1651. the year before your Petitioner undertooke this great ſervice of ſtaying the Silver in the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*.

In conſideration of which ſervice done as aforeſaid, many of the Council of State and members of this Parliament, did promiſe your Petitioner the reſtoration of his Eſtate, and they watched but for an opportunity to acquaint the Parliament therewith, that ſo his Eſtate may bee reſtored unto him againe, all theſe ſervices and promiſes made by the Council in the year 1651. before ever this Silver was brought into the River, or the State had ſeaſed on it.

May it pleaſe your Honours, in Decemb. 1652. before your Petitioner would undertake to make his diſcovery of the *Spaniſh* and *Flemiſh* fraudulent Claimes, to cozen the State of this Treaſure, and to be at the charge

charge of prosecuting the same in the Admiralty, your Petitioner was necessitated to come to a certain agreement about his estate with the Councel of State, and how he should be paid for this service, or else it had been a thing impossible for your Petitioner to have undertaken this task, or to have gone through with it, in respect the Councel of State would not advance any money to your Petitioner, but would rather have let this silver go in the Admiraltie, as it had gone, had not your Petitioner in the very minute of time stayed it, as is attested under the hands of the Officers of the Mint, whereupon your Petitioner was forced to borrow great summes of money, to enable him to employ instruments to finde out the bottom of this fraud.

Several Gentlemen lent your Petitioner seven hundred sixty five pounds at interest, every penny spent in this service; the reason that both made your Petitioner undertake this difficult businesse, and made these Gentlemen lend your Petitioner this money, was upon the credit and faith of the Councel of States promise to your Petitioner, that if this silver was forfeited to the State, your Petitioner should faithfullie be paid out of the same the summe of eleven thousand pounds, in lieu of his estate, and this you will see clearly proved, and my friends knew me so well, that I would not to fail of your Petitioners undertaking, and for that your Petitioner was and is ready to prove to the Councel of State, his damage is far greater by his Sequestration and Imprisonment then eleven thousand pounds, the Councel of State did faithfully promise

1652. that over and above the paying of your Petitioner the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, for this ſervice of getting and ſtaying this ſilver, your Petitioner ſhould have an Honourable Reward and Memorial left to poſterity for the ſame, and it was upon this ſcore of getting my eſtate again off Sequeſtration, or eleven thouſand pounds ſatisfaction, that I ever acted in this buſineſſe of the ſilver, or in any other publick buſineſſe from the year 1647. to 1651. or ſince 1652. to this time, for had I not been aſſured faithfully of my eſtate from the Councel of State, and relied on juſt performance; or had I had the leaſt thought of ſuch uſage, and putting off from day to day with References and Reports now my work is done; when my buſineſs, and what *I* deſerve is as well known (as the begger knows his diſh, or a man knows his right hand from his left.) I do humblie declare reallie to all the world, (I would have remembred that ſaying, a man may be over-juſt) or elſe I would have taken more conſideration then I have done of my own preſervation, when I was offered ten thouſand pounds by the Claimers for to have conniv'd and let the State be cozened of the ſilver in the Admiraltie, as they were at that time of many Dutch prize ſhips and goods. It could not enter into your Petitioners heart to exſpect ſuch delaies by references and old Court tricks; had I thought of ſuch dealings, I had known a waie to paie my ſelf. Had your Petitioner ſpent his ſpirits, time and eſtate to have ſtudied diſturbance and malignancie, as much as hee hath ſtudied the honour, peace, profit and welfare of this Common-

wealth,

wealth, the ſilver in the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George* had never been coined in the Tower, being two hundred ſeventie eight thouſand pounds, but by the treachery of ſome Merchants and others in the Admiraltie, had been cleared out of the Nation and ſent to the Dutch. Had your Petitioner *December* 16. 1652. at nine of the clock in the morning in the Court of Admiraltie been poſſeſſed with the dumb ſpirit of malignancie, your Judges of the Admiraltie that verie daie and hour had cleared the aforeſaid ſilver, the Admiral *Van-Trump* then lying on the Downes to have wafted the ſilver to *Holland*; which had not your Petitioner prevented by ſeaſonable applications to the Councel of State, might have prov'd of ſad conſequence, and have coſt many thouſand Engliſh mens lives, and God knowes what other dammages to this Nation, ſuch an over-ſight in the Court of Admiraltie might have brought upon this Nation.

Here followeth the Lord Bradſhawes CERTIFICATE *upon the Deſire and Requeſt to him, of* Sir Thomas Viner, *Sir* Iohn Barkeſtead, Iohn Limbery, Maurice Thompſon *Eſquires, Authoriſed by his late Highneſs* Oliver, *to be Commiſſioners to Examine this Buſineſs.*

The Lord *Bradſhawes* CERTIFICATE.

I *Have peruſed the Petition and conſidered of the deſires mentioned in the annexed Paper, and in compliance therewith ſo farr as my memory ſerves mee, which hath bin aſſiſted by the view of ſeveral Orders, Certificates, Depoſitions and memorialls formerly made in the Petitioners Caſe, and now ſhewed unto mee, I ſignifie and declare as followeth.*

That although I may not take upon mee to make a narrative of Mr. Violets *Caſe, much leſſe to give a punctuall accompte, after ſo many years, of what paſſed at the Council, relating to that engagement of theirs aſſerted in the Petition (which to be in the manner therein ſet down) I can neither knowingly affirme nor deny, yet the Petitioners addreſſes in the time of the Warr with the* Dutche, *concerning the ſtay of the Ships which had the Silver in them being very remarkable, I can for the ſubſtance teſtifie, and do well call to minde the Petitioners tenders and intimations to the Council, and undertaking the ſervice touching the Silver ſpecified in his Petition, and that upon good deliberation taken of the matter (the probability of his allegations being alſo much ſtrengthened by the concurrant circumſtances of ſome Letters about that time intercepted) he had thereupon very good encouragement given him by the Council, that (performing h s diſcovery) his paines, coſt and care, ſhould bee throughly conſidered, and he honourably rewarded, or was told or promiſed to that effect.*

Whereupon hee was Authoriſed and appointed by the Coun-

cil

cil to follwite and assist in that whole busiuess as by their Orders appeareth, and whileſt that Council ſatt, was taken notice of as the maine Agent in the whole conduct thereof, as the proceedings of thoſe times will ſhewe, what the benificiall conſeqnence of that imployment, and what fruite thereof hath been to the State may bee better manifeſted, by others who have been at the Helme of Affaires ſince the 20th of Aprill 1653. the day of the diſmiſſion of the Parliament and old Council.

But if I may offer my ſence of the man and his actings, which I apprehend to be in part expected, my opinion was and is, that his ſeaſonable interpoſition and proteſt in the Admiralty, applications to the Council, and diſcovery of the Dutch and Spaniſh frauds touching the Silver Conteſted for, theſe actions accompanied alſo with great Charge, hazzard, and trouble on his part, as hee offers to Demonſtrate, and affirmes to bee well knowne, adjoyning thereto for the legall part, the conſtant aſſiſtance of the learned Advocate for the Common wealth, were the maine occaſion (if not the cauſa ſine qua non) of the after benefit received by the State upon converſion of that Silver, the Petitioner being looked upon as the great Wheele that ſett all on work, as I believe it would bee teſtified for him by others, who had the honour to ſerve the Common-wealth in Council, when this buſineſſe was firſt began, and afterwards untill the cloſe of the ſame if they were conſulted herein.

His loſſes Anno 1643. and his diſburſtments aboute the Silver, for which hee prayes ſatisfaction and indemnity, I muſt leave to his own Evidencinge, and it ſeemes hee is ready for it.

The Councils Ingagements and Intentions to him-wards, at

his first assuming the employment, were not without good reason uncommitted to writing for avoiding of all misconstruction, they proposing on the one hand a faire and just proceeding, and on the other all due encouragement to that person whose disquisition and effectual prosecution for making good the claime they knew must needs be very expensive, and liable to many difficulties and hazards from the multitude of the contrary interessed parties, and their many and powerful abettors: So as any one in reason may conclude, that without such assurance of the part of the Councel, and relying upon it on the Petitioners part, the whole buſineſs had miscarried, as left, un-undertaken, and undone.

The Petitioners sore task and merit of the State in this particular: I shall not further meddle with; or take upon me to divine or determine what the issue will, or should be as to his just recompence and compensation.

His zeale, resolution, activity, and ability to promote the publick interest in divers respects, being known to me heretofore in good measure, as I formerly held my self obliged to cherish, and so much as in me was to improve for the States advantage: So upon the occasion now offered, wherein the honour and justice of the State, and their profit also, as I conceive, is mainly involved; I am very free to render him according to my best observation of him and his actings, this due and deserved Testimony. Septemb. 5. 1657.

John Bradshaw.

This is a true Copy of the Lord *Bradshaws* Certificate on the behalf of Mr. *Thomas Violet* examined by me,
Thomas Hewet, *John Kimmer*.

Francis

Francis Allen Esq; Report, and certificate upon the desire and request to him of Sir Tho. Viner, *Sir* Iohn Barkstead, Iohn Limbrey, *and* Maurice Thomson *Esquires.*

Gentlemen,

I Have received an intimation from you as referrees by vertue of an order from his Highness the Lord Protector referring to a Petition of Mr. *Thomas Violet* concerning his staying the Ships *Samson, Salvador* and *George*: And the silver therein contained, That I would testifie my knowledge in writing concerning the same, or what else is contained in the aforesaid Petition, in a ready compliance with what is so intimated, I do in the first place say, That I had not the particular knowledge of those affairs, as they respect Master *Violets* actings in them, which other Honourable Persons had, and therefore cannot testifie so particularly concerning those transactions as others may see just cause to do, on Mr. *Violets* behalf only, Thus much in general I can and do freely testifie, from my own observation and knowledge, that Mr. *Violet* did engage in that concernment of the staying the ships *Samson Salvador* and *George*; and in discovering the fraudes endeavoured to be put upon the State touching the silver in

them, contained with a great deal of induſtry, courage and unweariedneſſe; and indeed I conceive to his very great charge and expence, beſides his frequent attending the Committee for the mint in ſeveral affairs, referring therunto, which could not but be expenſive to him alſo; all which is ſubmitted to your further conſideration.

27 *Octob.* 1657. *Francis Allen.*

This is a true copy of this certificate, witneſs
Tho. Hewet, John Rimmer.

Sir *George Fleetwoods* Report and Certificate upon the deſire and requeſt to him of Sir *Thomas Viner*, Sir *John Barkeſtead*, *John Limbrey*, *Maurice Thomſon*, Eſquires.

Gentlemen,

MR. Thomas Violet *ſhewing me his Petition to his Highneſs, and his deſires mentioned in the annexed Papers, and requeſting me to certifie my knowledge of his ſervices for the Common-wealth, I finde my ſelf bound, as I am a lover of Juſtice and Truth, that would to the uttermoſt of my abilities have vice puniſhed, and vertue rewarded, in purſuance whereof I do ſignifie,*

That I have known Mr. Violet *for many years, he having daily recourſe to my Unele* Watkins, *during the time he had the office of head Searcher of the Port of* London; *They ad-*

advising together to get an Act pass against transporting gold and silver, and the Bill being brought by Mr. Violet into the Parliament, there was several references to the Committee of the Navy, Officers of the Mint, and Commissioners of the Customes to certifie their opinions; and they all centured and agreed in this, that the Parliament, (if they would have the Mint set on Work, and the gold of the Nation preserved) the Act against transporting gold and silver then depending in the House should be passed, this was Anno 1647. as appeares by the original Orders.

These actings of Mr. Violet for the Publick, together with several proposals of Mr. Violets for the advancement of the Trade of the Nation, and Mr. Violets constant attendance for many years both at the Council of State and Parliament, and Council of Trade, to procure the restoration of his Estate: Caused many of the Members of the House and Council of Trade, and my self amongst the rest to take especial notice of the Man, and such of the Council and Parliament as were pleased to make use of him found in Mr. Violet a deep and profound insight into Mint-Busines, and Merchants affaires.

And this good opinion of Mr. Violet procured him this benefit in 1651. that many of the Council of State, and Parliament, waited an opportunity for to move in the House for Mr. Violets indemnity, and for the full restoration of his estate being about eleven thousand pounds.

And this was promised to Mr. Violet 1651. a yeare before his undertaking this great service of staying the Silver mentioned in Mr. Violets Petition, and I am confident if Mr. Violet will take the paines to wait upon some of the Members

of Parliament and Council of State, he will have many honourable teſtimonies of this that I ſay beſides my ſelf.

And this was the true ground, and original of Mr. Violets *being taking notice of by the State of his abilities to make diſcoveries of the fraudulent Claims of the Spaniſh Ambaſſador to the Silver in the Ships, mentioned in Mr.* Violets *Petition, all which Silver Mr.* Violet *by his ſeaſonable diſcovery to the State, and by his proteſting in the Court of Admiralty in* Decemb. 1652. *was the only cauſe of getting the State this great Treaſure mentioned in the aforeſaid Petition of Mr.* Violet, *being three hundred thouſand pounds, and the Parliament, and Council of State in* 1652. *impoſed upon Mr.* Violet *the whole care of the management of this buſineſſe in the Court of Admiralty as to the diſcovering part of the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors fraudulent claimes, as appeares unto me by the view of ſeveral Orders and Warrants.*

It is moſt apparent in the whole proceeding in this difficult ſervice, Mr. Violet *had alwayes in his eye the reſtoration of his eſtate, or the value of eleven thouſand pounds, and the particular of Mr.* Violets *demands to the Parliament in* 1651. *was about eleven thouſand pounds, and had he not had a real aſſurance from the Council of State in* Decemb. 1652. *for the reſtoration of his Eſtate, or the value, this great Buſineſs had been loſt and left un-undertaken by Mr.* Violet, *had he not had both ſuch a promiſe, (and alſo he relied on the ſame) for juſt performance, for Mr.* Violet *in this his high undertaking ventured all his Eſtate, Life, Liberty, and expended in this ſervice above five hundred pounds, as I finde by the depoſitions of foure perſons employed in this ſervice.*

I

I remember well the appearing of the Spaniſh Ambaſſador in the Parliament 1652. *in* December, *demanding the Ships,* Samſon Salvador, *and* George, *with their ſilver and lading.*

It is very remarkable, the courage of Mr. Violet, *in giving the Ambaſſador of* Spaine *ſo high a charge in* 1652, 1653. *concerning his undue practices to defraud the Nation of this ſilver: And yet the Ambaſſador never to vindicate his reputation, nor to deſire reparation, he being here above a yeare after: This ſhews apparently there was a deſign ſet on foot by the Spaniſh Ambaſſador to defraud the Nation in this buſineſſe of the ſilver Priſes, for when I ſee the Spaniſh Ambaſſador make no Addreſſes to the Parliament for reparation, I was aſſured Mr.* Violet *would make him let go his hold and claime of this ſilver mentioned in his Papers, which he delivered into the Houſe.*

Upon peruſal of Mr. Violets *Papers I obſerved, that though the Parliament was diſmiſſed* 1653. *the* 20. *of* April, *yet* Mr. Violets *ſore task continued on him ſtill, he being by that preſent Councill looked upon as the great wheel that ſet all on working, as to the diſcovering part, and this appeares under the hand of Doctor* Walker *in ſeveral Letters writing to* Mr. Doreſlaws, Mr. Bud *the States Proctor,* Mr. Arnold, Mr. How, *to require them all in their ſeveral places to let* Mr. Violet, *and all ſuch as he employs under him have the full view and inſpection of all proceedings in the Regiſter of the Admiralty, and to require* Mr. Violets *attendance, he paying ſeveral perſons, and expending in this buſineſs above five hundred pounds, as I finde it ſworne by foure ſeveral perſons.*

It is true for ſome reaſons of State Mr. Violets *aſſurance and reward was uncommitted to writing to avoid claimers, and miſ-*

misconstruction of lewd tongues, and to carry an even hand both in respect of the claimers, and the Spanish Ambassador: But this omission was not to frustrate Mr. Violet *of his dearly earned reward, the restoration of his Estate; many of the then Council of State, if they be attended by Mr.* Violet, *will say this could never enter into their thoughts.*

To set a man so sore a task; and strictly to impose on him his daily attendance, and to enable him to undergo this great and heavy weight to be assisted by ten several persons, foure of them swear Mr. Violet *expended, besides all his pains, hazard, and labour, five hundred pounds in this service.*

And I am perswaded had not Mr. Violet *undertaken this businesse in that very nick of time he did 13. of* Decemb. 1652. *and constantly and vigilantly followed, and agitated in this businesse, both at the Council of State, and Admiralty; this great quantity of silver had been lost, and the State deluded with pretended claimes, and how seasonable a service this was at that conjuncture of time, and the happy fruit and effect so great a treasure brought to the Nation, is visible to all men.*

My opinion is that for the Honour (and I may say profit of this Nation, to encourage all men for the future to be faithful to the Common-wealth, and to expose their Persons, and expend both their spirits and purses for the Honour and safety of the publick, as Mr. Violet *hath done in this great undertaking, and brought it to a happy issue.*

That as the sum of money was the greatest that ever (I think) at one time was saved to this Nation by any one mans discovery, to his reward should be futable, not only to have the ful restoration of his Estate, which was faithfully, to my knowledg,

pro-

promiſed to him, both by many of the Council of State and Parliament *before ever Mr.* Violets *undertaking this ſervice mentioned in his Petition. But this ſervice being finiſhed, Crowns all his former undertakings, and in my opinion he not only deſerves the full reſtoration of his Eſtate, but to have an honourable memorial left to poſterity of his ſeaſonable and faithful diſcoveries and ſervices concerning the aforeſaid ſilver, That ſo all others may be encouraged to truſt to the faithful promiſes of the Council of State, when they ſhall ſee the States promiſes faithfully performed in ſuch a conjuncture of time, as when the Government was changed.*

And I think I am bound in my conſcience, that taking notice of ſuch high propoſals as were propounded either in Parliament or Council of State, during the time I had the honour to ſerve the Publick (amongſt which I have and do hold this ſervice mentioned in Mr. Violets *Petition to be one of the firſt rank that was ever preſented in Parliament or Council of State, when the work is finiſhed,) I hold my ſelf obliged, both in honour and conſcience to give the undertaker, ſuch as Mr.* Violet, *that hath in this buſineſs laboured all along to the perfecting of the work, The State having gotten by this diſcovery and undertaking, about three hundred thouſand pounds (as M. Violet affirms to me ſo much money coined) he having finiſhed his ſore task, I think I am bound in juſtice to help him what I can, that ſo after ſo great paines and hazard Mr.* Violet *might not work in vain.*

And upon this account I make this certificate, whereof one part is upon my own knowledge and experience I have had of Mr. Violet, *the other Part I refer to the Orders of Parliament, Council of State, Doctor* Walkers *warrants, and the Certificates of the Officers of the Mint.*

And I wiſh for the due encouragement of all active Perſons that ſhall hereafter venture upon great and high undertakings for the profit, honour, and ſafety of this State and Common-wealth, that Mr. Violets *reward and compenſation for this great ſervice may alwayes be had in remembrance, for no doubt ſo great and faithful a ſervice diſcovered ſo ſeaſonably, will have a happy iſſue, and the reward from the State will be ſutable to the greatneſſe of the Service.*

Septemb. 22. 1657. G. Fleetwood.

This is a true Copy of Sir *George Fleetwoods* certificate on the behalf of Mr. *Thomas Violet*, examined by me

Thomas Hewet, John Rimmer.

Doctor WALKERS Certificate.

I *Can truly, and do certifie, That when the Caſes of and touching the Silver in the three ſhips, the* Sampſon, Salvadore *and St.* George, *were depending in the Court of Admiralty, touching the ſame being Prize. And before the Argument touching the caſting the* Onus probandi *thereupon in that Court were made; Mr.* Thomas Violet *did repair to the ſaid Court of Admiraltie, and to my ſelf, being Advocate to the then Parliament, and did produce from the then Council of State,*

State, one order bearing date the 13. of Decemb. 1652. *And also some other Orders of the then Council of State, whereby he the said Mr.* Violet *was ordered to repair to the said Court of Admiralty, and also to my self as Advocate for the then Parliament; And to look after and take care of those said businesses, touching the said* Silver *in the said three Ships or to such effect, and accordingly hee the said Mr.* Violet *was therein very carefull, and industrious, and did by himselfe and others imployed by him, and at his owne charge take great paines in following the said businesse, and in searching after, and examination of the said* Ships, Papers, *and* Bookes, *and writings, and other matters that were exhibited into the Registers of the Admiraltie, and in making his observations thereupon, and collecting thereout what might make for the* State, *and looking after such other evidences as hee could finde out, (wherein hee was noe way remiss or negligent) and the said Mr.* Violet *did openly owne the same businesse in Court, and moved therein on behalf of the Parliament, and that earnestly and with zeal, and made or declared some Protest therein in the said Court of Admiraltie. And did not only particularly apply himself to me, but did also in my hearing privately press it to some of the then Judges of the Admiralty. And I did finde that the said Mr.* Violet, *by his much publick owning and appearing therein in the behalfe of the Parliament and then Council of* State, *did contract much envy and ran great hazards of his person, and it cannot bee but that he did lay out and expend much money to such as he imployed therein.*

10. March 1657. Wal. Walker.

I shall humbly desire your Honours to observe that Doctor *Walker*

if hee had pleaſed, could have certified in this his Certificate, the day of the moneth I made my Proteſt againſt the Judges of the Court of Admiraltie, being the 16. Decemb. 1652. againſt their diſcharging this Silver, and the great Conteſt I had with them about it before I could get the Judges to Reſpite their Judgment, and that to his knowledge the Judges of the Admiraltie complained of mee to the Council of State that very day in the afternoone for doing this ſervice, and that had it not bin for your Petitioner, the State had bin cozened of all this Silver. But becauſe I printed the liſt of the Dutch prizes, and diſcovered the abuſes and cheates put on the Nation by ſome Officers in the Admiralty, *(no doubt but this buſineſs ſtuck in his ſtomack, and to gratifie ſome guilty perſons that had cozened the State)* and that made him to certifie my buſineſs by halfs, and but part of his knowledge.

But it matters not as long as your Petitioner hath his ſervices fully certified concerning this Silver buſineſs, under the hands of Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Flettwood*, and the Officers of the Mint.

This memoriall I put down to let Doctor *Walker* know, that though hee could forget mee and certifie his knowledge by halfes, it may one day lie in my lot not to forget him, but to certifie my knowledge of him fully, when I finde a convenient time.

If Doctor *Walker* could have made this diſcovery without mee, hee would never have intreated mee to doe it, as appears by his Orders and Letters to Mr. *Doriſlaws*, Mr. *Bud*, Mr. *How*, and Mr. *Arnold*, Officers in the Court of Admiraltie, *vid.* fol. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73.

Sir *James Harringtons* Report and Certificate upon the deſire and requeſt to him of Sir *Thomas Viner*, Sir *John Barkſtead*, *John Limbery*, *Maurice Thomſon* Eſquires.

I Have read Mr *Thomas Violets* Petition, and his deſires mentioned in the annexed Paper, as alſo the deſires of the Referrees, and in compliance of his ſad requeſt, ſo

ſo farr as my memory ſerves mee, which hath been refreſhed by the veiw of ſeverall Orders of Parliament, Council of State, Certificates, Depoſitions, and memorialls formerly tranſacted in the Petitioners buſineſs, both concerning the Silver mentioned in the Petition, and ſeverall other of Mr. *Violets* faithfull ſervices done by him for this *Common-wealth*.

I do ſignifie and declare, that from the yeare 1649. to the year 1653. being the time I had acquaintance with Mr. *Violet*, I obſerved that hee had a deepe profound judgement and inſight into the ſecrets of our Mint in *England*, & knew the miſtery and ſecrets of other Mints in forreign parts, and the ſeverall Arts, miſteries, and waies forreign Nations uſed to induce and draw Bullion both gold and ſilver to their ſeveral Mints and Countries, and the Lawes and ordinances forreign Nations made for hindering the exportation in every reſpective Countrey.

And that both my ſelfe and others, my Aſſociates of the Council of State, in buſineſs of high and great concernments as to the Civil part, eſpecially concerning the Mint and Trade made uſe of him in many particular ſervices for the Publique.

And indeed for my ſelfe I muſt give him this juſt and due Commendations, that for all the time I knew him at the Council of State, hee was very diligent to advance the publique ſervice, as will appeare by the Acts of the Council in thoſe times, if recourſe be thereunto had.

Which actings of his, and his diligent attendance at the

the Council of State, was in prosecution for many years to obtain his estate which was taken from him by the Parliament, as hee constantly affirmed both to my selfe and others, my associates of the Council of State, when wee imployed him in many great businesses for the *Common wealth*, and this dilligent and vigilant carriage of his, presented him both to the Parliament and Council of State, as a man whose abilities, activity, resolution and fidelity, was very necessary and serviceable for the benefit of the State, and great use was made of him in those times by the State, as appeares by the Silver businesse, mentioned in his Petition.

And that to those that knew him both in Parliament and Council of State, his trust and faithfullnesse was held in very good estemee, and his services were eminently taken notice of both by my selfe and divers others, both in the Parliament and Council of State, for severall years before Mr. *Violet* ingaged in this great undertaking of staying the Dutch Silver in *December* 1652. mentioned in his Petition.

And truly I must attest that both my selfe and severall others of the Parliament and Council, looked upon Mr. Violet in this great undertaking of staying the Silver mentioned in his Petition, in the Ships *Sampson*, *Salvador*, and *George*, That Mr. *Violet* was the great wheele of the worke that got the State this great Treasure, for hee both discovered to the Council of State, the fraude of the *Spanish* Ambassadour, and the fraudes

of

of the *Dutch* and *Spaniſh* Claimers to the Silver, which ſeaſonable diſcovery of his at the Council ſtayed it, together with his Proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie, being by him faithfully, and actively performed, the true Atteſtation whereof was examined at the Counril of State, and now ſhewed mee under the handes of the Officers of the Mint.

By all which proceedings it appeares to mee that Mr. *Violets* engagements in this ſervice, was not only the inſtrumentall occaſion of getting the State this great Treaſure mentioned in his Petition, but the only cauſe, and without him and his Proteſting in the Court of Admiraltie at that very inſtant nicke of time 16. *Decemb.* 1652. this great Treaſure being about three hundred thouſand pounds (as Mr. *Violet* affirmes to mee there was ſo much money taken out of the *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*) had bin all let go out of the *Nation*, and bin diſcharged by the Court of Admiraltie, and of what prejudiciall and dangerous conſequence, ſuch an overſight in the Court of Admiraltie might have produced to this *Common-wealth* at that conjuncture of time, when *Van Trumpe* the *Dutch* Generall was in the *Downes*, is obvious to all men to conjecture, as alſo the contrary, the great advantage and benefit that hath accrued to this *Nation* by Mr. *Violets* happie and ſucceſſull Proteſting in the Admiraltie againſt the diſcharge of this Silver, and oppoſing the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, and all their numerous intereſſed parties and Claimers, and their powerfull abettors joyned with it, the hard and volun-

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tary taske hee impoſed upon himſelfe (as I finde it ſworne by ſeverall Witneſſes) and that beſides all his paines and hazards, hee expended in this ſervice above five hundred pounds.

And I finde by Doctor *Walkers* Warrants directed to Mr. *Doriſlaus*, Mr. *Bud*, Mr. *Arnold*, and Mr. *Howe*, the States Officers, and miniſters in the Court of Admiraltie, and by Orders of the Council of State, that ſince the 20th of *Aprill* 1653. Mr. *Violet* was required and enjoyned not only to contribute his own endeavours, but alſo at his own charge to imploy many others in makeing this diſcovery, which I finde to be atteſted under Doctor *Walkers* hand, and by the Depoſitions of ſeverall Perſons imployed by Mr. *Violet*, for that although the Parliament and Council of State were diſmiſſed the 20th day of *Aprill* 1653 yet Mr. *Violets* ſore taske, expenſive, and dangerous imployment was impoſed and continued on him till the State had gotten the Silver, and this appears by Warrants from his *Highneſſe* Council, and Doctor *Walker* of a later date ready to bee produced, which I have ſeen.

Theſe actings of his, accompanied with great charge, hazard, and trouble, ſhewes to all the world Mr. *Violets* faithfull ſervice, conſtant fidelity, and love to his Country.

Upon due conſideration of all the premiſſes, I am very willing to teſtifie my knowledge of Mr. *Violet*, according to that true worth and great abilities *I* know in the man, with his readines to ſerve his Countrey, and

and I do it the rather becauſe hee had ſeverall times my faithfull promiſe (when I was a Councellor of State) that I would teſtifie his ſeveral ſervices done to the Parliament, by which I conceive hee merited the indempnity and reſtoration of his eſtate before this great undertaking, mentioned in his Petition about the Silver in *Decemb.* 1652 but doing this ſervice ſucceſsfully in ſtaying this Silver, I thinke my ſelfe therefore now much more bound in honour and conſcience, after ſo longe a tryall of this mans patience, conſtancy, and fidelity, and his love to his Country, to give you my true obſervation of the man, both in his acting this and other great buſineſſe, and this I atteſt upon my knowledge and experience of the man, and not upon hear-ſay.

And if the rule of the Goſpel be obſerved, *viv.* that all men do to others as they would be done to themſelves, Mr. *Violet* cannot be many weekes without a full reſtoration of his Eſtate or the value, and if Mr. *Violet* hath had ſuch meaſure as he hath preſented to the world in print, ſurely I muſt ſay he hath had hard meaſure, but I wiſh him not only his Eſtate, but alſo an honourable memoriall to be left to Poſterity of his great ſervice, according to former engagements to him by ſome of the then Council of *State*, for this particuler ſervice of the *Silver* mentioned in his Petition, this juſt due and deſerved Teſtimony, I do give him this firſt of *October* 1657.

James Harrington.

This is a true Copy,
Examined by us
Thomas Hewet, John Rimmer,
John Symes.

WHen I brought theſe aforeſaid Certificates to the Commiſſioners, to whom the Examination of my ſervices touching this Silver, was referred by the late Lord Protector *Oliver*, I offered to bring them the Teſtimonialls of ſeveral others of the Council of State, to affirme and atteſt to the ſame effect as theſe honourable Gentlemen had don.

But the Referrees were pleaſed to ſay they had ſeen enough, and to forbid mee the troubling any others for conformation of what I had alleadged in my Petition, they declaring that theſe Certificates aforeſaid had given them full and ample ſatisfaction, and that they were ſorry I ſhould bee ſo dealt with, and that they did ſee my ſad ſufferings, and would fully and effectually certifie the true State of my buſineſſe to his Highneſſe *Oliver* what I had merrited from the State, they not doubting but I ſhould have not only the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds paid mee for this diſcovery and great ſervice but alſo ſhould receive an honourable reward over and above for the ſame.

To Incourage others for the future to relie and truſt to the Promiſes of the Council of State, and to be faithfull in the truſt that was impoſed on them by the State.

The Referrees telling your Petitioner, that in Juſtice, Prudence, Honour, and Policie, the States muſt pay mee, and that they could not expect but the end of my labours would come to a happy iſſue, and thereupon the aforeſaid Referrees

were

were pleaſed to give mee this honourable Certificate following, concerning the true State of my ſervices, and the Councel of States ingagements to pay mee the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, and an honourable reward over and above. viz.

May it pleaſe your Highneſſe.

WHereas by your Highneſs order of the 13th of *July* laſt, your Highneſs was pleaſed to referr unto us or any three of us Mr. *Thomas Violets* Petition hereunto annexed, whereby wee are directed to examine the premiſſes ſuggeſted therein, and to ſtate and certifie the Caſe to your Highneſſe, together with our opinions upon the whole matter.

In obedience whereunto wee having peruſed the ſaid Petition, and finding many particular ſervices which the Petitioner thereby affirmeth were done by him and well knowne to the Lord *Bradſhawe*, and many others of the late Councel of State, and hee having named to us Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Fleetewood*, and *Francis Allen* Eſquires, who (amongſt other of the Council) knew the Petitioners great ſervice done concerning the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, their Silver and Lading mentioned in his ſaid Petition, and the Council of States intentions and engagements to him, when hee under-

tooke to diſprove the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, and *Spaniſh* and *Flemiſh* Claimers thereunto in the yeares 1652. and 1653.

For the clearing of the truth of the Petitioners allegations ſuggeſted in his ſaid Petition, wee held it neceſſary to acquaint the Lord *Bradſhawe*, and the ſaid Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Fleetwood*, and *Francis Allen* Eſquires, with your Highneſſe ſaid Referrence, and ſent them Copies thereof with the ſaid Petition, and with our deſires that they would certifie their particular knowledges therein, that ſo wee might the better returne to your Highneſſe the true ſtate of the Petitioners Caſe.

And wee have accordingly received Certificates from all the aforeſaid Perſons, which wee have hereunto annexed, together with the ſaid Petition and Referrence for your Highneſſe gracious peruſeall, all which Teſtimonialls and Certificates ſet forth the great ſervices done by the Petitioner, by his ſeaſonably diſcovery of the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors, and Claimers fraudulent endeavors to deceive the *Common-wealth* in *December.* 1652.

Wee have likewiſe peruſed ſeverall Orders of Parliament and Council of State, that ſet forth the intended fraudes and Practices of *Don Alonſo de Cardenas, in coming in his owne Perſon to the Parliament and to the Council of State with ſeverall other Merchants, and their Claiming the Dutch Silver then aboard the ſaid Ships.* And wee finde Mr. *James Stenere* committed by the Parliament for tamper-

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ing in this buſineſs; Wee finde it atteſted under the hands of Mr. *George Brett*, *James Hoare*, and *Thomas Birch*, *all Officers of your Highneſſe* Mint (they being then in the Court of Admiraltie the 16th of *Decemb.* 1652.) that the Petitioner by his active, faithfull, and ſeaſonable Proteſt in the ſaid Court (at that very inſtant nicke of time, and the very hower the Ships and Silver were in judgement before the Judges there, and upon diſcharge) the Petitioner by his Proteſt ſtayed the *Silver mentioned in the Petition, being to the value* of above two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds in Silver, taken out of the aforeſaid Ships and Coyned in your Highneſſe Mint, as the Petitioner hath proved to us upon the ſight of ſome accomptes.

And wee finde by ſeverall Orders of the Council of State, and Orders from Doctor *Walker* the *Common-wealth's* Advocate, and by ſeverall Depoſitions and Certificates that the whole weight of that buſineſſe was impoſed on the Petitioner by the Council of State in 1652. and 1653. as to the diſcovering part, and the Petitioner was required to proſecute this ſervice after the diſſolving of the long Parliament, by the Council of State then being.

Wee alſo finde it atteſted by the Lord *Bradſhawe*, that the ſeaſonable interpoſition of the Petitioner, and his Proteſtin in the Admiralty, applications to the Council, and diſcovery of the fraudes, both of the *Spaniſh*, and *Dutch*, touching the ſaid Silver, thoſe actions of the Petitioner accompanied alſo with great charge, hazard, and trouble, were

The Heads of the Lord *Bradſhaws* Certificate.

were the maine occaſion if not the *cauſa*, *ſine qua non*, of the after benefit received by the State upon converſion of that Silver, the Petitioner being looked upon by the then Council of State as the great wheele that ſet all on work, when this buſineſs firſt began and after til the cloſe of the ſame; The Councels engagements and intentions to himwards at his firſt aſſuming the imployment, were not without good reaſon uncommitted to writing for avoyding all miſconſtruction, they propoſing on the one hand a faire and juſt proceeding, and on the other all due incouragement to that Perſon whoſe diſquiſition and effectuall proſecution for making good the Claime, they knew muſt needes bee very expenſive, and liable to many difficulties, and hazards, from the multitude of the contrary intereſſed parties, and the many and powerfull abettors, ſo as any one in reaſon may conclude, that without ſuch aſſurance on the part of the Council, and relying upon it on the Petitioners part, the whole buſineſs had miſcarried, as left ununderta ken and undone.

The Petitioners ſore task and merrit of the State, hee ſaith hee will not further meddle with; The Petitioners zeale, reſolution, and ability, to promote the publique intereſt in divers reſpects being knowne to him in good meaſure, as hee formerly held himſelf obliged to cheriſh and (ſo much as in him was) to improve for the States advantage, ſo upon this occaſion offered wherein the honour and juſtice of the State and their profit (as hee conceived) is mainely inv olved; Hee ſaith hee is very free to render the Petitioner according to his beſt obſer-

observations of him and his actings, this due and deserved Testimony. Dated the 5th of *September*, 1657.

The Heads of Sir *James Harringtons* Certificate.

Sir *James Harrington* also certifies us, that the Petitioner was the great wheele of the worke which got the State this great Treasure, for he both discovered to the Council of State, the fraudes of the *Spanish* Ambassador, and the *Dutch* and Spanish Claimers to the Silver, which seasonable discovery stayed it at the Council, together with his Protest in the Court of Admiralty, being by him faithfully, and actively performed, the true attestation thereof was examined at the Council of State, and the Petitioner imployed several persons at his own charge in the prosecution of this businesse, being required by the Council of State to do it, by all which proceedings he saith it appeas that the Petitioners ingagements in that service, was not only the instrumentall occasion of getting the State that great Treasure mentioned in the Petition, but the only cause and without him, and his Protesting in the Court of Admiraltie, at that very instant nicke of time the 16th of *Decemb.* 1652. this great Treasure (being about three hundred thousand pounds) had bin all let go, and further saith, that the Councll of State did not only promise the Petitioner, the restoration of his Estate for this particular service of the Silver, but also an honourable memoriall, and that both himself, and others of his associates of the Council of State, in businesse of great and high concernment (as to the Civil part) especially as to the Mint and Trade, made use of him in

many

many particulers for the Publique, and that he did obſerve that all the time he knew the Petitioner, which was from 1649 to 1653. the Petitioner was very dilligent to advance the Publique Intereſt. Theſe actings of the Petitioner accompanied with great charge, hazard, and trouble, ſhewes forth to all the world the Petitioners faithfull ſervices, conſtant fidelity, and love to his Country, this Teſtimony concerning the Petitioner, beares date under Sir *James Harringtons* hand the firſt day of *October* 1657.

The Heads of *Francis Allen* Eſq. his Certificate.

Mr. *Francis Allen* certifies, that the Petitioner did engage in that concernment of ſtaying the Ships *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, the Silver and Lading, and in diſcovering the fraudes endeavored to be put upon the State, touching the Silver in them conteyned with a great deale of Induſtry, courage, and unweariedneſs, and indeed he conceives to his very great charge and expence, beſides his freequent attending the Committee for the Mint in ſeverall affaires referring thereunto, which could not but be expenſive to him alſo. This Certificate beares date the 27th of *October* 1657.

The Heads of Sir *George Fleetwood* his Certificate.

Sir *George Fleetwood* likewiſe certifies, that the Petitioner by his ſeaſonable diſcovery to the State of the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadour, and Claimers fraudes as to the Silver mentioned, and his Proteſting in the Court of Admiralty in *December* 1652. was the only cauſe of geting this great Treaſure mentioned in the aforeſaid Petition, and that the Council of State in 1652 and 1653. impoſed upon the Petitioner the whole care of the management of this buſineſs in the Court of Admiralty as to the diſcovering

covering part, and that the Petitioner was ſeveral times imployed by the Council of State, and members of Parliament, and ſuch of the Council for the State or Parliament, as were pleaſed to make uſe of him, found in the Petitioner a deep and profound inſight into the miſteries of the Mint buſineſſe, and Marchant affaires.

And the ſaid Sir *George Fleetwood* further ſaith, that it is moſt apparent in the whole proceedings of this buſineſſe, that the Petitioner had alwaies in his eye the reſtoration of his Eſtate, or the value of eleven thouſand pounds, which was the ſumme of Mr. *Violets* demand to the Parliament in 1651. which was promiſed the Petitioner by ſeverall members of the Council and Parliament for ſervice done before this great undertaking, and had not the Petitioner had a reall aſſurance from the Council of State in *Decemb.* 1652. for the reſtoring to him his Eſtate, or eleven thouſand pounds for this ſervice of the Silver, the whole buſineſs had bin loſt, and left un-undertaken by the Petitioner, had he not had ſuch a promiſe, and alſo relyed on the ſame for juſt performance, and he ſaith it is true that for ſome Reaſons of State, Mr. *Violets* aſſurance and reward was uncommitted to writing, to avoyd claymor, and miſconſtructions of lewde Tongues, but this omiſſion was not to fruſtrate the Petitioner of his dearly earned reward, the reſtoration of his Eſtate, as many of the late Council of State (if attended on by the Petitioner) would ſay this could never enter into their thoughts. This atteſtation under the hand of Sir *George Fleetwood* beares date 22th *September* 1657.

Theſe Certificates with the former Atteſtations are briefly reported. The Originals ſpecifying the Petitioners particular ſervices, in this and other his undertakings, more at large are hereunto annexed.

And whereas the Petitioner alledgeth in his Petition, that had he deſiſted the proſecution of the ſaid buſineſſe in your Highneſſe Court of Admiralty, and betrayed the Truſt the Councel of State repoſed in him, he was ſeveral times offered, and might have received in the yeares 1652. and 1653. from ſeveral Merchants of *Flanders* then in *London*, the ſumme of ten thouſand pounds. Upon examination of this Allegation, we finde that the Merchants Claimers did ſeveral times offer the Petitioner ten thouſand pounds, to have deſerted this buſineſſe of proſecuting againſt the Spaniſh Ambaſſador and Claimers concerning this Silver. And this was confeſſed by the Merchants Solicitor to be true, as appeareth by two ſeveral perſons *Affidavits*, viz. Mr. *Thomas Hewet*, and Mr. *William Savill*, taken before *William Glaſcock* Eſq. one of the Maſters in *Chancery*.

And whereas the Petitioner alledgeth, That in the proſecution of this great buſineſſe, for the ſpace of about two years he was at the ſole charge himſelf thereof, and paid ten ſeveral perſons whom at that time he employed in this ſervice, as he hath proved by *Affidavit* of foure Witneſſes, *viz.* *John Glover* and *Symon Baldwin* Merchants, *Thomas Ley* and *John Gerrell* Citizens of *London*, Sworn before *John Page* and *Robert Kelloway* Eſquires, Maſters in *Chancery*, in 1654. That the Petitioner to their know-

knowledge expended above five hundred pounds in this ſervice in 1652. and 1653.

We finde the Petitioners debts and engagements contracted in the proſecution of this buſineſſe of the Silver Ships to be very great, amounting unto the ſumme of ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, and upwards, which the Petitioner oweth at intereſt at this day. And he hath preſented us a particular Liſt of the ſeveral mens names, of whom the Petitioner borrowed the ſaid money to do this ſervice, the truth of which appears unto us by the *Affidavit* of the ſaid Mr. *Violet*, ſworn before Doctor *Harrington*, one of the Maſters of your Highneſſe Court of *Chancery*, beſides ſeveral other great ſummes of money, which the Petitioner affirmes to us to have taken up at intereſt, for his neceſſary ſupport and maintenanee ever ſince the Sequeſtration of his eſtate in 1643.

May it pleaſe your Highneſſe, upon this buſineſſe of the Petitioner we have had many meetings. And being by your Highneſſe Reference required not only to ſtate the Petitioners Caſe, but to certifie our opinions upon the whole matter; We do accordingly in all faithfulneſſe and humility certifie to your Highneſſe, That upon due conſideration had of the great travel, charge and hazard, which the Petitioner hath undergone in the proſecuting of this buſineſſe, as hath been proved unto us as aforeſaid. As alſo upon the Atteſtation of Sir *George Fleetwood*, and Sir *James Harrington*, concerning the Promiſe of the Councel of State to Mr. *Violet*, for the reſtoration of his eſtate, or eleven thouſand pounds.

Upon the whole matter, we do in all humble manner certifie your Highneſſe, that we finde the Petitioner is a perſon, who not only deſerves the making good the Councel of States Promiſe to him as aboveſaid. But alſo by your Highneſſe goodneſs, bounty and favour, that there be ſome ſignal Reward conferr'd upon him for this his eminent ſervice, according to the Promiſe of the ſaid Councel, as by the Certificates of Sir *George Fleetwood*, and Sir *James Harrington*, hath been atteſted unto us, That ſo all others for the future, may be encouraged to ſerve the intereſt of your Highneſs and the Common-wealth with all faithfulneſs, as it appeareth to us the Petitioner hath done.

We have alſo conſidered of the Petitioners debts and expences contracted in this ſervice, and for his ſupport ſince 1643. and beleeve the Petitioners engagements at this preſent are very great and preſſing upon him. Wherefore being ordered by your Highneſs to certifie our opinions upon the whole matter, We humbly offer unto your Highneſs, That for the preſent, (leſt the Petitioner ſhould be thrown into priſon, and thereby utterly ruined for the very moneys he hath expended in this ſervice,) That ſome conſiderable ſumm of money in part may ſpeedily by your Highneſs be aſſign'd unto him, for the paying of his debts contracted in this great ſervice for the publick. And alſo that care be taken for his ſubſiſtence, according to his quality. And that the remainder of the money promiſed him by the late Councel of State as aforeſaid, may be paid unto him, aſſoon as your Highneſs,

neſs, and the great affaires of the Common-wealth can permit, he having eminently and ſignally ſhewed his zeal, reſolution and forwardneſs, with the hazard of his life in this ſervice for his Country.

All which we Humbly ſubmit to your Highneſſe Wiſdome and Juſtice.

1. *May* 1658.

John Barkſtead, Tho. Viner, Gabriel Beck, John Limbery, Edward Dendy, Henry Middleton, Maurice Thomſon, Iſaac Doriſlaus.

Examined by us,
Jo. Symes, Jo. Kimmer.

When your Petitioner after much paines, patience, and attendance, had gotten all theſe aforeſaid honourable Gentlemens Certificates, and Teſtimonialls aforeſaid in May 1658. *I caſt about how I ſhould bring my buſineſſe to have it come to a good iſſue, that after ſo much delay I might have Juſtice.*

Thereupon your Petitioner, Petitioned Oliver *Lord Protector, ſetting forth my former ſervices, and backing the ſame with ſo many bulwarks, and Certificates, that in juſtice nor honour, I thought he could not delay me longer of my dearly earned reward, for I knew he could not deny a tittle in my Petition, but what I alledged I had fully proved, and that your Petitioner might be dealing with him for ſomething to get ſome imployment till he paid me the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds.*

I did offer in part of my ſatisfaction of eleven thouſand pounds, to except of the imployment of Regulating the manufacture of gold and ſilver thread, with the fees I formerly had received, and I humbly offered to accept of this office at the value of two thouſand pounds, this office being a part of my own Eſtate, for which I paid formerly 1500l.

And had I not bin diſturbed in the due execution, by ſome clamorous cheating Silkmen, and Wyer drawers and Refiners who make it their common trade to cozen the wearers of gold and ſilver lace, and have melted down within this twenty yeares of the Plate and heavy ſilver Coynes of the Nation to the value of a million of money, to the unſpeakable loſſe of the Common-wealth, by waſting of the blood and ſinews of this Nations money, which ought to bee kept in peoples purſes to maintaine Trade and Commerce, and not to be put upon Womens Petticoats to be burſt and waſted away.

For to induce his Highneſſe Oliver *to grant me the ſaid imployment, I annexed to my Petition and Papers a Report of the Committee of Parliament for Trade, Dated* June 16. 1657. *the original Report I have readie to produce to your Honours, which Report certifies that they have had it fully proved before them upon many dayes Examination, the great abuſes daily practiſed in the culling and melting down the currant ſilver coines of this Nation; for the expenſive making Gold and Silver Lace, Wyre and Thread They certifie under their hands the dailie abuſes and cheats is put on the Wearers by the deceitful making Gold and Silver Thread and Lace, and alſo by ſeveral fraudulent practices in the making Gold and Silver Thread, that there is waſted of the ſtock of Silver in this Nation, about*

thirty

thirty thousand pounds a year. And that at this day there is no Rule nor Order for regulating the Work-masters, nor the Workers, but every one is left to cozen the Common-wealth, and they have certified it by what several wayes they do it; as will appear upon your Honours Perusal of the Certificate of the Committee for Trade.

And the Committee for Trade finding this to be a great abuse and cheat put on the Nation, have upon many dayes consideration presented to that Parliament a Report of a Model and Way for the due Regulation of all these abuses, and recommend in their Certificate your Petitioner for the execution of that service, to be appointed the sworn Officer, and to take the fees for doing that service as formerly your Petitioner did, and that your Petitioner for the future put in security in the Exchequer, to warrant all these Manufactures of Gold and Silver Lace, Wyre and Thread to be good silver, that is drawn, assayed, marked or sealed at the Office.

And to warrant the same to be sterling silver according to the Standard at the least, or to pay all damage to the Party or Parties grieved, and that all Gold and Silver Thread shall be duly spun, with a due proportion of Silver to Silk, to the end that the Silver may not be brushed and rubbed, of Lace, Buttons, and other sorts of works in Gold and Silver Thread, as it daily is, to the quantity, as hath bin proved to the Committee for Trade, of thirty thousand pounds a year.

Whereupon his Highness refers this Petition *July* 13. 1658. and all the aforesaid Reports, together with a Report of the Councel of Trade, for the regulating the Manufacture

nufacture of Gold and Silver Thread, to the conſiderations of the Privie Councel, to take all the premiſſes into their conſideration, and to ſee your Petitioner paid for theſe ſervices in ſtaying the Silver, and for his former loſſes according to Equity and Juſtice.

And that if the Councel conceived it fit, I ſhould have the emploiment to ſee to the due regulating the manufacture of Gold and Silver Wyre and Lace, and to prevent the melting down heavy *Engliſh* money, as I deſired, but the Protector ſoon after died before I could get the Councel of State to meet, and ſo I renewed my Petition to the late Lord Protector *Richard*, who ſigned this Order to *Gabriel Beck*, and *Francis Bacon* Eſquires, *viz.*

RICHARD P.

Whereas wee are informed that Thomas Violet *of* London Goldſmith, *hath formerly done our moſt dear Father of famous memory and this* Nation *ſeverall great ſervices, and that the ſaid* Thomas Violet *hath made his addreſſes unto you, and in many particulars hath acquainted you with his humble deſires and good affections to our ſervice, and ſhewed you ſeverall tranſactions which ought to be taken into our conſiderations, being (as wee are informed) both for our ſervice, and the profit,*

fit, ſafety, and honour of this Nation. Wee therefore require you to give us an accompt of all ſuch particulars concerning the Publique, as the ſaid Thomas Violet *hath already acquainted you with, and if you conceive it fit for our ſervice, you are by theſe preſents authoriſed to ſend for the ſaid* Thomas Violet, *and to examine him upon any other queſtions or matters, which you ſhall conceive is fit for our ſervice, and in what wey the ſaid* Thomas Violet *may be ſerviceable unto us and the Publique, and the reſult of your debates to preſent unto us in writing, with what expedition you can.*

Dated 28. *October* 1658.

To our truſty and Welbeloved,
Francis Bacon, and Gabriell
Becke, *Eſquires.*

May it pleaſe your Highneſſe.

IN *obedience to your Highneſſe Order of Reference dated* 28. October *laſt hereunto annexed, wee have ſeveral times mett, and finde that* Thomas Violet *Petitioned your Highneſſe royall Father for his promiſed reward, which Petition his late Highneſſe* 13 July 1657. *referred to the Lord* Barkſtead, *Sir* Thomas Viner, *and ſeverall other Perſons, and their*

Report thereupon is hereunto annexed, which Report we have perused, and also severall Certificates of the Lord Bradshawe, *Lord* George Fleetewood *of the Vache, Sir* James Harrington, *and* Francis Allen *Esquires, and severall other Certificates of the Officers of the Mint, as also the Orders of the late Council of State, Depositions, and Orders of the Court of Admiraltie, whereby it appears to us that the said* Thomas Violet *by his seasonable interposition, and Protest in the Admiraltie* 17. December 1652. *his application to the then Council of State, and his discovery of the* Spanish *and* Dutch *fraudes, touching the Silver in the Ships* Sampson, Salvador, *and* George, *being neere three hundred thousand pounds, this his discovery and prosecution in the Admiraltie, in all probabillity saved the State this great Treasure, or else the State had been cozened thereof, as appeares to us at large by all the aforesaid Certificates ready to bee produced to your Highnesse.*

Wee finde it proved and certified, that Thomas Violet *expended seven hundred sixty five pounds in the prosecution of this service, besides all his time and hazard, which monies appeares to us he tooke up at interest, for which he stands indebted to severall persons, and he hath proved to us he is every day in danger to be taken in execution, for the very monies hee expended in this service, to get the State this great Treasure.*

And wee finde it attested unto your Highnesse royall Father, by the Certificates of all the aforesaid Referrees, that the State did promise unto Thomas Violet, *upon his undertaking at his own charge to do this service, to pay him the sum of eleven thousand pounds, and some other rewards for this service, in stopping the aforesaid Silver.*

And

And it is further certified to your Highneſſe royall Father by all the aforeſaid Referrees, that they finde it proved that Thomas Violet *was offered ten thouſand pounds in the behalfe of the Claimers, to have deſiſted his proſecution in the behalfe of the State, touching this Silver.*

And we finde that the Lord Barkſtead, *Sir* Thomas Viner *and all the other Referrees humbly propounded to your Highneſſe royall father as very fit and juſt, that a conſiderable ſumme of money bee preſently paid unto* Thomas Violet, *for to diſcharge his debts, and for his ſupport, leſt otherwiſe hee ſhould bee throwne into Priſon and utterly ruined for the very money he hath expended in this ſervice, and that care be taken for the future for* Thomas Violets *ſubſiſtence according to his quality, and that the remainder of the money to make it up the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, promiſed to him by the State for this ſervice, may be paid unto* Thomas Violet *as ſoone as the great occaſions of the State can permit. This Certificate is hereunto annexed and ſigned by all the aforeſaid Referrees* 1. May 1658. *to your Highneſſe royall Father.*

And wee humbly offer it as our opinion, that it is both juſt, and fit for the honour of the State, that the monies Thomas Violet *hath expended in this ſervice, and a due conſideration for his ſupport for the future be ſpeedily paid unto him, to preſerve him from a preſent ruine, and the remainder of the aforeſaid ſum to be paid him as ſoone as the great occaſions of the* Common-wealth *will permit*

And the Referrees do hold Thomas Violet *to be a perſon very fit and uſefull for imployment either in your* Highneſſe *Mint, or in the Office for the due Regulation of gold and ſilver wyer,*

and Lace, &c. and in several other employments, as appears by several Certificates. And Violet *himself hath made several Proposals unto us in writing for his satisfaction, which we have hereunto annexed for your Highnesse gracious perusal. In some of these Proposals we do humble apprehend* Thomas Violet *may be useful for your Highnesse and the publick service. All which we humblie submit to your Highnesse consideration.*

Francis Bacon.

18. *Jan.* 1658.

Examined by us
Jo. Symes, Jo. Rimmer.

Gabriel Beck.

About the middle of April 1659. *the late Lord Protector* Richard, *receiving these Certificates and this following Petition, blamed some persons whom he had interessed to give him a true Account of my sufferings, and of my abilities and willingnesse to serve the Common-wealth, that they had not done it before, but to shew that his late Highnesse put a great value of my services and sufferings, and of my abilities to serve the Nation, (as some Honourable Gentlemen told me he did) he was pleased upon the Reading this following Petition, to give me and some other Gentlemen which I had nominated in trust for myself, this ensuing Warrant for the making of a publick farthing for the use of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *referring the Approbation and Confirmation thereof to the Parliament, to provide such Orders and Rules as they thought best for the good of the People*

I used the name of Edward Johnson *Esq. and some other Names for my use, and here followeth my Petition and Reference from his late Highness. And if the Parliament please to employ me in this service, and to grant me for three one yeares the entire and whole management of this Office, for making a common farthing. I will thankfully accept of this employment, and humbly and thankfully allow it as five thousand pounds paid unto your Petitioner from the Common-wealth, in part of his due debt of eleven thousand pounds for staying the aforesaid silver. And your Petitioner will be tied to pay the maimed souldiers, during the time of this Grant, twelve-pence upon every twenty two shillings in farthings, which shall be uttered by me or my Assignes, in* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *which will be a constant revenue, and I will pay it in monethly to the Treasurers for the maimed souldiers.*

And if the State please to have farthings made of a smaller proportion, I will allow the souldiers five shillings for every twenty two shillings, and yet these Copper farthings shall be above as heavy again as the ordinarie farthings that now passe among us.

To his Highneſſe *RICHARD LORD PROTECTOR* of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*. And the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging.

The Humble Petition of *Edward Johnſon* Junior, Eſq. &c.

SHEWETH,

THat there are many fraudes and deceits daily practiced by diverſe petty Retayling Tradeſmen, Chapmen and others, in makeing and utteiing farthing tokens of their own ſtamping, almoſt every petty Retayling Tradeſman putting forth a ſeverall farthing token not valueable without any Licence, ſome of Pewter, Tinn, Lead, Braſs, and ſome of Copper, according to every mans fancy that makes their own farthing tokens.

Great numbers of theſe Retayling Tradeſmen breake, others remove themſelves from one place to another, and many of them die inſolvant, and their farthing tokens thus unduly uttered being not valueable, one of them not being worth in value the ſixth part of a farthing, and ſome of their farthing tokens not worth the twentieth part of a farthing, the people of this Nation (eſpecially the poorer ſort) are daily cheated and cozened by theſe indirect practices.

To

To prevent these abuses for the future, your Petitioners humbly pray your Highnesse *that a common valueable farthing may be made of fine Rose Copper, of a valueable weight (that is to say) of the weight of about halfe a quarter of an ounce Haver du poys to a farthing, and twenty two Shillings by tail, to weigh eight pounds Haver du poys, with the remedy of sixpence under or over to pass currant within your* Highnesse *Dominions of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *for all such persons as will make use of them for their necessity of change, and to prohibit all other farthing tokens now made, or to be made or uttered within your* Highnesse *Dominions aforesaid.*

That to have a valueable common farthing to be made, to pass currant within your Highnesse *said Dominions, is so needfull a thing in the* Common-wealth, *and of such necessity for change, that the making of the same will relieve and accommodate many thousands of petty Tradesmen and poore people, as will plainly appeare unto your* Highnesse, *in our most humble Reasons and motives hereunto annexed, to which wee do most humbly Referr.*

Your Petitioners most humbly pray your *Highnesse*, in respect of the great charge, and trouble they shall undergo in performing this service for the good of the *Common wealth*, to grant unto them and their Assignes and Deputies, the sole making and uttering of the aforesaid Common farthing for one and thirty yeares, and to prohibite all other farthings, and the making and counterfeiting of this farthing by any other, upon paine and losse of Estate and im-

imprisonment during your *Highnesse* pleasure, and in consideration thereof, your Petitioners will serve your *Highnesse* Dominions with valuable farthings of the goodnesse and weight aforesaid, and also pay unto your *Highnesse* Exchequer to your *Highnesse* use, twelve pence for every two and twenty shillings in farthings, which shall be vented and uttered by your Petitioners, their Deputie, or Deputies in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, which will bee certaine revenew to your *Highnesse* of many hundred pounds a yeare, and a great accommodation and benefit to the poore of all your *Highnesse* Dominions.

And your Petitioners shall dayly pray &c

RICHARD P.

WEE have perused the Petition of *Edward Johnson* Junior Esquire, &c, together with the reasons hereunto annexed, and our will and pleasure is, that our Sollicitor Generall prepare a booke fit for our signature, for the erecting of an Office for the sole making, venting, and uttering of a Common farthing, to go currant in *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and *Wales*, according to the weight, proportions, and propositions, in their Petition, conteined with such Rules to be observed

ſerved by the Petitioners, or their Aſſignes, for the ſtamps, figures, and Arms of the ſaid farthings, as wee and our Succeſſors ſhall appoint, and for the granting the ſame to the ſaid *Edw. Johnſon* Junior Eſq; *&c.* and their Aſſignes and Deputies for one and thirty yeares. Reſerving to us and our Succeſſors twelve pence for every two and twenty Shillings of the ſaid farthings, ſo vented and uttered. And our Solicitor Generall is to attend and acquaint the Parliament with this Petition, together with the reaſons thereunto annexed, and with this our Warrant. VVho are deſired to Ordaine and appoint ſuch Rules, Prohibitions, and Penalties, for the effectuall and better management of this ſervice, the preventing of all former abuſes, and reſtrayning of the Counterfeiting, and importation of any the ſaid farthings from the parts beyond the Seas, as they ſhall thinke fit and neceſſary for the carrying on of this Service for the good of the *Common-wealth*. Given at *Whitehall* the 19th day of *Aprill* 1659.

To our Truſty VVelbeloved Sir *William Ellis* Barronett our Sollicitor Generall.

To my much honoured and worthy Friends
Sr *Thomas Viner*, Kt., Mr *Alexander Holt*, Mr *John Sanders*, Mr *James Hore*, Mr *Will. Baldwine*, Mr *Will. Du-Gard*, Mr Sarjeant *Dendy*, Mr *Gabriel Beck*, Mr *Bovey*, Mr *Ed. Watkins*, Mr *John Heatly*, Mr *Lucas Lucie*, Mr *Thom. Packington*, Mr *Francis Biſhop*, Mr *John Burredge*, Mr *Delabar*, Mr *Nowel*, Mr *Emery*, Mr *Hord*.

Worthy Gentlemen, and my good Friends:

TO you of all others I am moſt obliged to give a particular account of this buſineſs, touching my ſtaying this ſilver, mentioned in this Book, becauſe, I could not have done this great ſervice of ſtaying the Shipps, Sampſon, Salvador, *and* George, *and proſecuting that buſineſs in the Admiraltie, but that I had the money to do it from you, and I owe it you at this day about* 1500 l. *I have formerly ſhewed unto moſt of you the Orders of Parliament touching this buſineſs, and what endeavours were acted by Mr* James Steneer, *and ſeverall other Merchants, to cozen the State of all this great treaſure: All the printed Tranſactions moſt of you have ſeen formerly, But the orders that mentions ſeaven ſeverall Letters of Mr.* James Steneers,

Steneres, and severall other Merchants Letters which were read in Parliament. Mr. James Steneer writes to his Correspondents beyond Seas concerning the geting them this Silver out of the Admiraltie, (wee, meaning himselfe and the rest of his confederates, have made a great many friends among the great ones to speake for us in the busines when it comes before them, (a wise man may gues who those great ones were, and what great ones made a trade by cozining the Common-wealth in their Prizes) the Claimers of the silver at that time having stollen several scores of thousand poundes out of these Ships, so that they weree full of money and they could bribe any Person in power that would be corrupted, in another of Mr Steneres Letter that was read in the Parliament House, Mr. Stenere writes to his Correspondents beyond Seas, that he must have a care what hee did write to them touching this Silver busines, lest his Letters should be opened, when he was brought to the Parliament Barr the first of December 1652. he rather chose to act the part of a foole, and a lyer, rather then to serve the Common-wealth to discover this design, for which tampering of his the Parliament committed him from the Barr to the Serjeant at Armes the first of December 1652. as appeares by the journals of the Parliament, at that time Van Trumpe the Dutch Admirall was in the Downes, and no doubt but his mouth watered after this Silver, there is a Commission under the great Seal of Holland, and the originall orders of the States Generall. Upon the petition of the Merchants of Amsterdam, to guard the ships and silver from the Parliaments forces, which will remain to posteritie to show the justice of this Nation in staying this silver for Dutch silver, the truth of this being also confest in the Admiraltie by many of the

marriners and paſſengers which came that Voyage from Spain, *and that the Purſers books and many of the Bills of Lading were forged and altered at ſea after that they had heard certainly by ſome ſhips that the Dutch were at warrs with* England.

The Parliaments Agent at Cadez *gave advice here to Mr* Wilſon *his kinſman, the day that theſe ſhips ſet ſaile from* Cadez, *and though they gave out there that they were to go for* Dunkirk, *yet their deſigned Port was* Amſterdam, *they being loaden for the greateſt part upon the account of the Dutch, and the ſame was confeſt in the Admiraltie by many of the Paſſengers and others.*

Decemb. 14. 1652. *The Spaniſh Ambaſſador* Don Alonſo de Cardenas, *Embaſſador extraordinary for the King of* Spain, *came in perſon to the Parliament, and made an Oration in the Houſe, claiming all this ſilver in theſe three ſhips to belong to his Maſter and for his Maſters ſubjects account; which Speech hee alſo at the ſame time preſented to the Parliament in writing both in Spaniſh and Engliſh, together with two bundles of papers touching this ſilver, which hee referred to the conſideration of the Houſe: And for ſeveral daies hee made his appearance at the Council of State, and put in the like claimes for this ſilver, hee ingaging his Honour that no part of it did belong to the Dutch, as will appear by the proceedings and the records of the Council of State, and Mr* Stenieer *was bayled, and his buſineſſe never called on to this day.*

While theſe buſineſſes were tranſacted at the Parliament, Councel of State, and Admiraltie, I made the Lord Bradſhaw *and many of the Council of State acquainted with the whole practice and fraud that was intended to be put on them by the aforeſaid*

ſaid parties, and that if they had not a ſpecial care, the Judges in the Admiraltie would diſcharge this ſilver, and the Dutch had rather it ſhould be in the bottom of the ſea than wee ſhould have it. Upon this Information the Council of State commanded mee to attend carefully the motions of the Court of Admiraltie and the Merchants touching this Silver, and from time to time to give the Council an account what was done in the buſineſſe.

Whereupon, December 15. 1652. *I made the Council acquainted, That the Judges of the Admiraltie had appointed to bring theſe ſhips,* Sampſon, Salvador *and* George, *their ſilver and lading to a judgment the next day, being* Decemb. 16. *in the Admiraltie; And that I did believe the Judges would cleare the ſhips, the Lord* Bradſhaw *and ſome others of the Council askt mee what reaſon I had to ſay ſo or to ſuſpect ſo: Whereupon I told them, the Commiſsioners of Dutch prize Goods had given me a warrant to go aboard theſe Dutch prize ſhips when I pleas'd, and to imploie whom I thought good to get acquaintance with the ſeamen aboard theſe ſhips. And I had certain intelligence, that* Otho George, *Captain of the* Sampſon, *had commanded all his men to be in readineſſe, and had taken in freſh victualling and biskets, and that in a few daies they ſhould be at* Dunkirk, *declaring that* Van Tromp *would do them no hurt though hee were on the Downes.*

Upon this diſcovery, many of the Council of State did apprehend the great dammage and danger the Nation was in if this great treaſure ſhould fall into the hands of the Dutch; and after much debate I was commanded by the Council to attend in the Court of Admiraltie, Decemb. 16. *all the while the Court ſate, and if the Judges did go about to clear the ſilver, then I*

ſhould

ſhould make my Proteſt againſt their proceedings, till my Witneſſes were examined that ſhould diſcover the fraud: And the Councel likewiſe charged mee, That if the Judges askt mee by what authoritie I made my Proteſt, I ſhould deny I had any order from the Councel of State, but I ſhould do it upon my owne peril and account, if I were certain I could diſprove the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, and if I did prove that there was ſilver aboard theſe ſhips belonging to the Dutch, out of the firſt hundred thouſand pounds that was caſtined of this ſilver, I ſhould be paid eleven thouſand pounds, being in lieu of my eſtate that I had for many yeares petitioned for, whereupon I told the Councel the eſtate the Parliament took from me, endamaged me above ſixteen thouſand pounds, many of the Councel replying (Perform you what you have undertaken, which we believe you are never able to do) and you ſhall have an honourable reward for this ſervice, over and above eleven thouſand pounds which you claim for your eſtate. I have done this ſervice, and two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds the State hath had, and imployed it for the defence of the Common-wealth, in paying the Army and Navy, as will appear by the Accounts of Coll. Barkſtead; *yet to this day the Councel of State hath not performed their faithful Promiſe to me, to pay me eleven thouſand pounds, and to give me an honourable reward over and above for this ſervice.*

It is very remarkable, that there was a deſigne laid amongſt ſome of Mr *Steniers* great ones to cozen the State of this Treaſure; and would I have been a Knave, I might have been one of his great ones, and have taken ten thouſand pounds to let the ſilver go, as in this Book is certified by many honourable perſons I might have had.

And

And that to ſome in the Admiralty, my appearing in that Court to ſtay this ſilver was moſt diſtaſtfull and unexſpected, and ſpoiled ſome peoples markets both in the Admiraltie and other places too; for ſome of the Judges in the Admiralty, (*Exton* and *Stevens*) *Decem.* 16. 1652. were ſo farre from giving mee thanks for my diſcovery, and for making my Proteſt in the behalf of the State to ſave this ſilver (which had not their intereſt and profit layen another way they ought to have done) but they contrariwiſe openly in the Court before many hundreds of merchants have reviled mee and would of diſcharged this ſilver.

And had I not received a command from the Council of State the day before to act in that manner, to be ſure to keep the Judges from diſcharging the ſilver, let the Judges ſay what they pleaſed, the Iudges would that morning have diſcharged the ſilver, and conſulted together to commit mee; they diſputed the buſineſſe ſo lowd, that I and many others heard it: And the Iudges bid Mr *Wyeen* the then Regiſter of the Admiralty call on the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, not minding what I ſaid: this can be proved by many merchants, and is fully certified by the Officers of the Mint.

Whereupon I told Mr *Wyeen* the Regiſter, that if he and the Iudges did diſcharge the ſilver in theſe ſhips, and did not forbear their ſentence till my Witneſſes were examined, I would make it the deareſt daies work they ever did in their lives or to that effect. And I undertook before the Iudges in the Admiralty upon the peril of my life to diſ-

prove

prove the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors and *Flemmiſh* Claimes to this ſilver. Whereupon Monſieur *Motett* (the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors Secretary) hearing mee ſay ſo to the Iudges, was in a very great rage, and ſo were all the reſt of the Claimers.

Whereupon I told the Iudges, that if they would clear the ſilver, notwithſtanding my Proteſt, before my witneſſes were examined, it was moſt apparent the Common-wealth was betrayed, and bribes given and taken by ſome great ones to cozen the Common-wealth of this ſilver, but it ſhould not be in their power to do it, for I would prevent them.

And that if the Iudges did proceed to diſcharge this ſilver, and that this ſilver come into the hands of the *Dutch*, the Iudges lives and eſtates could not make the Common-wealth ſatisfaction; for that *Van Tromp* the *Dutch* General was then on the Downe, and an haſtie Iudgment, before the truth of this plot was diſcovered, would put this ſilver into the *Dutch* mens power, which might be of ſad conſequence to this Nation, and may coſt many thouſand *Engliſh* men their lives. Whereupon all the *Spaniſh* and *Flemmiſh* Claimers were in a great rage, heat and diſcontent.

Two of the Iudges (*Exton* and *Stevens*) told mee I had undone my ſelfe for ever, in making my Proteſt againſt the diſcharge of the ſilver, and by my other actions and words that day in the Admiralty; and ſo the Iudges commanded mee to attend the Council of State that afternoon: And ſo the Court broke up, the *Spaniards* and

Flemings

Flemmings curſing mee bitterly, and I exſpected every minute to be murdered by them.

The Iudges of the Admiralty propheſied truer then *Lilly* hitherto; for they told mee the ſtaying of this ſilver would undo mee: for if the Council of State do not pay mee the eleven thouſand pounds they promiſed mee, I have by my faithfulneſs, honeſty and integrity to my Countrey in the proteſting againſt the diſcharge of this ſilver in the Admiralty, and by my conſtant, chargeable and dangerous proſecution thereof, in getting the State two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pound, in refuſing the Claimers money, when they offered mee ten thouſand pounds to be ſilent and let the State be cozened of the ſilver: VVould I have been a Knave I might have been reckoned among Mr *Stenieers* great ones, but my faithfulneſs to my Countrey in this particular ſervice (if the State be not juſt to mee in their promiſe) will undo mee for ever.

Gentlemen, I have formerly delivered a particular of ſome of your names, and the ſummes of money I borrowed of you to to enable me to do this great ſervice, all my owne Eſtate being under a ſequeſtration, unto the Commiſſioners that were appointed to examine this buſineſſe.

Moſt of you knew when you lent me this monies, I was to lay it out in this buſineſſe in the Admiraltie, and tenn honourable Gentlemen have Certified, I borrowed of you and ſpent in this ſervice ſeven hundred ſixty five pounds, beſides ſeverall great ſummes of money

I payd ſome of you for Intereſt of this money ever ſince the year 1652. and great ſummes of money I have borrowed to do the Councel of State other ſervices, as you may finde in this booke, Fol 107. 108.

I owe unto you all this 25th of *May* 1659. the ſumme of fifteen hundred fourtie and odde pounds, currant money of *England*, which ſums I have laid out, and a great deal more, in doing of this Commonwealths ſervice. Gentlemen, I have printed this Letter to acquaint the Councel of State, that ſome of you have commenced Suits, and I look every date for your Executions to be ſerved on me, for the very money I laid out to ſave the lives of thouſands of this Nation.

I ſhall humblie leave it to the conſideration of the Parliament, Councel of State, and all true Engliſhmen that are Lovers of their Countrey, and reſpect the credit of the Nation, when they ſhall reade what I have done in this ſervice, ſo clearly proved.

Firſt, what the State and *Common-wealth* hath got, and the conjuncture of time when Van Tumpe the *Dutch* Generall with the *Dutch* Fleete was in the *Downes*, and at that very time I was offered by the Claimers of this Silver, great Merchants of *Flanders* who was then in London to get this Silver out of the States hands, I have proved that theſe very Claimers ſeverall times offered me the ſumme of ten thouſand pounds, to have ſuffered the State to be cozened of this Silver in the Admiraltie, and had I not eſteem'd and valued, the peace and proſperity of this Nation above my life, I would have

taken

taken this money without any further trouble, and gone and lived in another Country, where *I* could have bin imployed in some *Common wealths* and States, and have bin honourablie and thankfully rewarded.

I shall humbly desire the Parliament and Council of State to consider how many such malignants there is in the three Nations *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, if the Parliament could but finde a covee of ten such malignants in *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and the Dominions of *Wales*, to bring them in two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds every one of them as *I* have done, such a summe of money would pay the debts of the Publique, if they can finde none of the breed but my self, I humbly desire then to preserve me for a Phenix, and to pay me eleven thousand pounds which *I* have so cleerly proved they owe me, and give me a Commission to go a Kite-catching for the Common-wealth, *I* shall humbly present them with a great number of pretended godly Buzzards, who since the year 1640. have cozened the Common-wealth of many hundred thousand pounds, *I* shall humblie shew them the wayes how they have done this, and finde out the men who from the bottome of baseneſſe and beggerie, have by unjuſt waies accumulated to themselves vast estates, in these distracted and troublesome times, to the ruine of many thousands of families, whose cries for their oppressions have ascended up unto Heaven, and no doubt but is the principal cause of these sad distractions and divisions that are now amongst us.

If one Achan *could trouble all* Israel *for ſtealing a golden wedge, and a Babyloniſh Garment, what diſturbance will a thouſand* Achans *do, who have cozened the Common-wealth of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland; *for my part I humblie ſay clearly, that I never ſtayed this Silver in* 1652. *for any of the then Councel of States particular profit, I never minded either* Oliver *or* Rowland, *I did it for the ſervice of the Commonwealth, and Honour of the Nation, as I was a true Engliſhman, without reſpecting private perſons; and let who will have the Government, or Supreme Power, I ſhall humbly demand it, as it is my right and due, my dearlie earned reward of eleven thouſand pounds for this ſervice.*

S. Paul ſaith, *hee fought with beaſts at Epheſus*; I am ſure of it, in this buſineſs, in ſtaying this Silver, I was fain to encounter with beaſts in the Admiraltie, at the Exchange, a ſhip-board, *to make my ſelf all things to all men*, to ſpend my ſpirits, my money, make uſe of my Credit, engage ſeverall of you Gentlemen to borrow great ſumms of money for mee, to get the State this great Treaſure: and when I exſpect my reward, to bee delayed with Referrees, and Reports, and Certificates, and to trouble all theſe honourable Gentlemen to ſpend their time for ſeveral daies in taking the Proofs and Collections, and as yet not to receive one dramm of juſtice, or one peny of Reward; to bee uſed as children are that look into a Fortune-book, to be directed from one ſpirit to another: how honourable this uſage will bee for the Common-wealth, to have this recorded to poſteritie, I leave it to you, and all juſt men to judg.

So

So contrary to all humane exſpectation hath Gods dealings been with mee in this buſineſs, that where my greateſt fear was, I had no need to fear, and where my greateſt confidence was, there I am miſerably diſappointed.

For I feared the *Spaniards* and the Claimers would kill me for ſtaying this Silver, but that was a needleſſe fear, for God hath kept me, I put my truſt in man and thought aſſuredly, that it could never enter into the hearts of Gentlemen, and an *Engliſh* Council of State, but thankfully and honourablie to pay me what they had promiſed faithfully, and I ſo dearly earned, which was for getting them two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds.

The State to pay me in liew of my Eſtate taken from me, to my damage twenty thouſand pounds, for which the Council of State agreed to pay me as aforeſaid the ſum of eleven thouſand pounds, beſides an honourable reward.

Had I ſerved my God with that integrity, and broke ſo many nights ſleep to ſtudy to pleaſe him, as I did to pleaſe the Council of State and man, God would not have left, nor diſappointed me as man doth. Had the Council of State an intention never to have paied me when I undertook their work, they had done both you and me a Courteſie to have chopped of my head, and eaſed me out of a troubleſom world.

Then I had not cozened you of your money, which I muſt be forced to do if the Council do not pay me, moſt of you know I could not pay you, till the State payed me, and

and this ſome of you will atteſt, when required, to be true, beſides it grieves me to the Soule more for ſome of you, who out of good will to the *Nation*, borrowed great ſummes of money for me, and at this day are ſued for the ſame and muſt pay it, that I ſhould be made an inſtrument to Trappan you or any honeſt man for your good will to your Countrey, to cozen you of your money.

It is true my body is at your ſervice to impriſon in a Goal, but it is money that you expect, and not my fleſh or bones.

How ſhamefull a thing would it bee, that it ſhould be left to poſterity, that *Thomas Violet* that ſaved this *Nation* two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds, all imploied in the defence of the *Nation*, at ſuch a time the *Common-wealth* was in Jeopardie, and in great ſtreights for money, diſcovering this Plot the ſame day the Judges in the Admiraltie would have diſcharged the Silver, and then it had bin preſently conveyed to our enemies the *Dutch*.

For which ſervice and undertaking the Council of State faithfully promiſed him the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, and an honourable reward, *Thomas Violet* having gott the *Common-wealth* all this Silver as aforeſaid, but no performance, no promiſe, nor word kept.

That *Thomas Violet* might have had ten thouſand pounds from the Claimers to have deſerted this Truſt, and to have conniv'd and let this Silver go, but he would not be falſe to the *Common-wealth*.

But

But constantly for two years being assisted by ten other persons that followed this businesse in the Admiraltie, a Shipboard, and at the Exchange, and in severall other places, and with much Trouble, Charge, and Expence, to get the State the aforesaid great Treasure, borrowing fifteen hundred pounds of severall of his dear and loveing friends to do this service, who upon the Comitils of State not performing with me, in paying me my dearly earned reward, were all cozened of their money, for I cannot pay you before the State pay mee, and if this should fall out to be true, would not all good men say, both you and I have had hard measure for our good will and fidelity for getting the State this great Treasure, and make other men for the future to take money when it is offered them.

And not to play an after-game as I now do, to Petition for my due satisfaction.

I pray God for the honour of this Nation, and of this Posterity, that the Council of State take order for my satisfaction, and indeed I am perswaded in my Conscience, when the Council sees these Transactions attested by a multitude of honourable Witnesses, and my services so great, that never any man of my quality had the like Contest with mightie men, and brought it to so happie success as I have don, that I shall be truly paid eleven thousand pounds, and the Damages will be considered for the forbearance of my dearly earned reward so long from 1653 to 1659.

Gentlemen, I have presented to you the hardest usage that you or I can expect, and if I be not justly and honourably dealt with, let fortune doe her worst, I will trust and wait on Gods Providance, and tide out these troublesom times, ever keeping this rule where I receive Protection there will I pay obedience, let it be to

Oliver,

Oliver, or Rowland, *and no longer then I can have Protection will I owe obedience, but I will ſtudy the happineſſe and Honour of my Countrey ſo long as I live and breath, and let what will come this hath and ſhall be my rule to walke by.*

I now think it convenient to give you an accompt, by what waies I humbly propound to be paid by the Parliament and Council of State this ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds, and to take no money from them, but to bring them in greater ſummes of money, and alſo advantage the Nation many ſcores of thouſand pounds, and fill the Nation with great Treaſure of gold and ſilver, the Soldiers delight, and the Merchants darling, being that which is the meaſure of all things.

Upon the peruſeall of this narative, you will ſee a Watch taken in pieces, and to your eye you ſee the wheeles and ſprings that makes the motions and the parties imployed.

A Painter may ſhew you the Colours before he workes, but the craft is in mixing and grinding them, and handling the pencel that makes the Picture.

There is not one man of a hundred thouſand that could, or can go through with this buſineſſe, but the undertaking of it would brake his neck. It was God that inabled me, and kept up my ſpirits, and ſo he doth at this day, or elſe it had bin impoſſible but I ſhould have ſunke under the weight of ſo much oppreſſion.

The ſhewing you a Watch, and painting, inables you not to make either, without long ſtudy, Tooles and materialls.

Here you ſee both the Theorick, and the practick part, that I have and can ſerve my Countrey.

And me thinkes that rule in common Juſtice ſhould be allowed

to me, that having made my proofe-piece as it is amongst most Lawyers or Tradesmen as a reading shews a man well verst in the Law, an excellent Picture once finished makes a man an approved Painter, and severall prizes skilfully played approves a man master of defence.

I humbly present unto the Parliament and Nation, my getting the Common wealth this two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds to be my proof piece, to shew to posterity, that the Garden of England hath too few such malignant Violets, that would voluntarily venture life, credit, and what is above life, have morgaged all my well-being for the future for fifteen hundred pounds to save this Nation, and refused ten thousand pounds when I was offered to be bribed.

Let any just man consider of what I have done, and no man can deny me this reward of eleven thousand pounds, that hath honesty, honour, or Conscience.

When they remember Christs rule, do as thou wouldst be done unto, (I must put the number of such ungratefull persons, if the sad fate of State have left any of the breed in the Council of State not into the number of English States men, but they are of the breed of Machiavel,) and I hope not to finde one of them in our English Council of State, that professe Christianity and would offer worse measure to their fellow Countrey-men, and Protestants, then Turks would use to Christians.

God deliver all good honest minded men from such Machiavellians, but I hope better things that St. James his rule shall be remembred, shew me thy faith by thy workes, that I that have worked in the Vinyard of this Common-wealth all my time, so successfully for the profit and honour of the Nation

from the year 1648. to 1659. now I have gotten the State this Treasure as I have fully proved it (both the money the State promised being eleven thousand pounds, and an honourable reward) the honour and Justice of the Nation being so highly concerned to see mee Justly satisfied.

To conclude, have you but patience till the next Term, and such of you as have commenced your suits go no further, put not your selfe and me to expence and trouble, till I get the Council of States Answer to this booke, I here promise you all, such of you that will have my person, next Terme willingly to submitt to your Executions, and if the Council of State will suffer me to be buried in a prison alive, for the money I expended to get the State two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds, and at that time I entured my life in the businesse, such oppressions will stinke in the nostrills of all good and just men, but I hope better things, and trust the Council of State will be more carefull of the credit, and faith of the Nation.

Your Bond-man for the States service,
and would fain subscribe my self my
own Freeman to do yon service.

THOMAS VIOLET.

THE

THE POSTCRIPT.

The Wayes I humbly propound to the State to pay me this debt, are these, in which Emploiment the Common wealth will get twenty times more advantage then I, as appears, Viz.

1. I Have at this time three Bonds in my Custody, which were out of my possession twelve yeares in the Committee of *Shropshires* hands at *Shrewsbury*, which bonds are in two thousand pounds for the payment of me one thousand pounds, and taken from my Sister Anno. 1643. who kept them for me, these bonds were due in 1644. I paid *John Corbet* Esquire a member of this present Parliament forty pound, to have these Bonds delivered to me by the Committee of *Salop*, which money I paid by command of the Council of State, as appeares in this book Fol. 27. 28. 29.

I only humbly desire and pray for an Order, or Ordinance of Parliament to confirme the said Order of the Council of State, and that I be impowered by Order of Parliament to sue and to implead the said Bonds, as formerly I might have done, notwithstanding any Order, or Ordinance of Parliament to the Committee of *Shropshire*, or any other Committee touching or concerning these Bonds, in regard I have paid the Committee of *Salop* forty pounds for them as aforesaid.

And I ſhall thankfully allow and accept of theſe three Bonds for two thouſand pounds in part of payment of the ſumme of eleven thouſand pounds the Council of State promiſed me. Gentlemen, for your Comfort theſe Bonds are good Bonds, and the men Solvant that owe me the money, and the money is doubled at ſix in the hundred at this day, and I have men of fifteen hundred a yeare tyed for the payment of me of theſe Bonds at long running, though now they keep out of the way, they ſhall pay me.

2. Wheras I had an Office for Regulating gold and ſilver thread, as appeares in this Book, Fol. 110. 111. 112. and had I not bin diſturbed in the due Execution of the ſaid Office by ſeverall Clamorous cheating Silkemen, Wyer-drawers, and Refiners, who *I.* have proved to the Parliament make it a common Trade to cozen the wearers of gold and ſilver Lace, as I can atteſt it under the hands of Mr. *Alexander Jackſon* ſworne aſſay Maſter of Goldſmiths Hall, and other perſons in a hundred parcells.

The Refiners and Wyer drawers of gold and ſilver within this twenty yeares, have culled and melted down the heavieſt coines of Shillings, Sixpences, halfe Crownes, and Plate of this Nation, to above the value of a million of Silver, to the great weakening of the Stock of currant Silver money, the great decay of Trade, and unſpeakable loſſe to the Common-wealth.

I have, and can produce to the Parliament a Certificate of the Committee of Trade dated the 16th of *January* 165⅞. upon many days examination of all theſe abuſes, *I* have it

certified

certified to the Parliament the ſeverall daily cheats of Wier-drawers put on the Nation, and the Committee for Trade recommended me *Thomas Violet* to the Parliament to be reſtored to my Office with ſuch fees as *I* received formerly, and certifie the great miſcheifes which is daily practiſed for want of this Office.

And that I ſhould be ordered to put in ſecurity in the Exchequer in ſuch ſummes as the Parliament pleaſe to appoint me, to warrant all gold and ſilver Wyer that ſhall be aſſayd at the Office to be fine Silver, and not under ſterling, and all gold and ſilver Thread to be *juſtly* and duly made, with a due proportion of Silke, and *Thomas Violet* to pay the damages to any perſon greiv'd or wrong'd, that buy gold or ſilver Thread, or Lace ſurveyd as aforeſaid.

And to prohibit all Refiners, and other perſons the melting down the currant Silver coines, or Plate of the Nation, for any of theſe manufactures upon ſevere penalties, the Committee recommend me to the Parliament, I ſhould have the power as formerly to make ſearches, and deface all adulterate gold and ſilver Thread and Wyer, and the Committee Certifies this Regulation of the reſtoring me to my Office, would increaſe the ſtock of Silver in the Nation above thirty thouſand pounds a yeare, the original Order I have ready to produce.

And if the Parliament by their Order impower me to Execute that Office again, and confirme me in it for two lifes, which coſt me fifteen hnndred pounds before I could get the grant under the great Seale from the late

King, (which money I paid to the Lord Treaſurer *Jackſon*, Lord *Cottington*, Secretary *Cook*, Mr Atturney General *Banks*,) if I have this Office againe, I will increaſe the ſtock of Treaſure every yeare above ſeventy thouſand pounds a year, whereas now as this manufacture is made, without a Rule, it waſtes the ſtock of Treaſure thirty thouſand pounds a year, and this I will maintaine, prove, and demonſtrate it to your Honours to be true, this manufacture being under no Rule and Government as it is at this day, is one of the back doors that hath brought ſuch a ſcarſity and want of currant Silver money on the Nation, and had it ever come to Examination in Parliament as now I deſire it may, I will prove it is more profitable to the Nation to keep money in peoples purſes, then vainly to bruſh and loſe thirty thouſand pounds a year of men and womens cloaths, as is Certified by a Committee of Parliament it now doth.

I will demonſtrate this Nation had better have given at this day one hundred thouſand pounds to me to have kept up this Office to a due Regulation, then have put down my Office, by the doing thereof they have had a million of money leſs in the ſtock of the Nation then they ſhould have had, had my Office continued, if the Parliament pleaſe to impower me to Regulate this manufacture, and to receive the fees I took formerly, I humbly will accept of it for two thouſand pounds ſo I may have it for two liſes, in part of payment of the eleven thouſand pounds which the State owes me.

3. I have for many years attended the Committee of the Mint

Mint about Regulating their Mint, as is well knowne to many members of the Council of State what charge and time I ſpent in this ſervice, I complained of this buſineſſe eleven yeares ago, and for your further ſatisfaction I recommend you to Fol. 11. 12. 13. 14. in this book, there you will ſee the true Reaſons ſet down how it comes about that no ſilver and gold is coyned in the Tower.

And that the Parliament, I will Juſtifie, had been better to have given the two Doctors *Gourdon*, and *St. John*, forty thouſand pounds for a Pention, then have imployed them in their Mint, that it is not in the power or ſkil of Doctors or Apothecaries ever to ſet the Mint at work as I have demonſtrated: that had I not ſtayed two hundred ſeventy eight thouſand pounds which was coyned by my proſecution, this ſum was as much money as hath bin coined in ſome ſeven yeares in the Tower, ſince the Maſter-worker and Warden had that imploiment, I have humbly offered if the Parliament pleaſe to command me and pay mee for my paines, that I will make the Mint conſtantly go, and cauſe every year ſome hundred of thouſands of pounds to be coined, to the honour of the Nation, and increaſe of the ſtock of the Nation.

Provided I may have the place of Maſter-worker and Melter, with the uſuall fees formerly allowed to them ſetled under the great Seale, and that I may be impowered by Orders and Warrants from the Council of State from time to time for to ſee the due execution of my place, for the inabling me to do this ſervice. This buſineſſe to effect is very troubleſom and chargable.

And

And will be of mighty concernment to the State, for their ſervice, as you will ſee in this booke, by filling the Nation with Treaſure and money, the blood and ſinews of Commerce and Warr, what makes ſo generall a complaint of want of Trade, but want of money, and people have not monies to pay the ordinary and neceſſary charges, and if the State do not look to ſettle this buſineſs ſuddenly, this miſcheif for this many years I have foretold to the Parliament in Print, and *I* knew would ſuddenly come upon us.

It is a certain Maxime, Not any private perſon, or a Common-wealth can ever be capable of effecting any great buſineſſe that is not rich in monies, or cannot command great ſummes of money, either of his own, or upon his Credit.

I pray read and conſider what I have ſaid concerning this buſineſſe in this book, Fol 11. 12. 13 14. if the State imploy me here in the Mint, I will remove all theſe obſtructions, and ſet the Mint a working, and this imployment if I have it for my life, I will humbly accept of it at the value of two thouſand pounds, in part of payment of my ſatisfaction of eleven thouſand pounds, and by my induſtry and care will increaſe the States Stock every year ſome hundred of thouſand of pounds of *Silver*, which now comes in, and is ſtollen out.

I would never undertake to do this difficult buſineſſe, were *I* not aſſured there is none in the Nation can do it but my ſelf, and till the State imploy me, this work will never be done effectually.

Two

Three of you Gentlemen are great mints men and Goldsmiths, and know the difficultie of this undertaking, and I dare affirme before you, none of you will trouble your selves to finde out the bottom of these difficult waies that must be used to do this service, not for ten times the profit I shall receive by this Emploiment.

Therefore I humbly desire to have an act to injoy the place of Master-worker and Melter for my life, provided I do this service within three moneths after my grant, this mischeif is come to a gangrene, and the Council of State must make sharp and strict Orders in this businesse, or else this mischeif cannot be remedied, a great deal of care must be used to put these Laws in Execution, else there wil be a perpetual consumption of the Stock of the Nation in the Silver coines, as it is come already on the Gold coines, you shall not receive in a thousand pounds one twenty-shillings-peece in Gold, and in few years there wil be the like defect in the Silver, not so much as will maintain Commerce, and Trade, pay Rents and Taxes, nor to go to Market.

The first Sluce-gate that must be stopped, is the forbidding the melting of gold and Silver currant coins of the Nation, for gold and silver thread it is true there is a Law against it, but who looks after the Execution, Execution is that that gives life to the Law.

The like course must be taken against the Transporting gold & silver out of the Nation, it is true old Laws forbid it, but who makes it their businesse to discover the offenders

Had the Act passed in the House which I prosecuted

againſt Tranſporting Gold and Silver, and *I* impowered and imployed as *I* humbly propounded ten yeares ago, this Nation had had at this day millions of Silver which is now Tranſported, to the great damage of the Nation.

This Act hath bin twice read in the Houſe, ten times Committed, Referred to the Committee of the Navies, Officers of the Mint, Officers of the Cuſtomes, all their Reports and Certificates certifie that if the Parliament will not paſſe this Act, and appoint able skilfull perſons to make it their buſineſſe to hinder the Tranſporting Gold and Silver, the ſtock of Gold and Silver in the Nation would be all *Tranſported*, and this Nation expoſed to very great inconveniences by not preventing it, who can or could ſay more then theſe Certificates ſay.

If the Parliament pleaſe to paſſe this Act, I will ſpend my time and paines, and in that ſervice, take theſe Tranſporters in the nick of their action, and confiſcate the monies, had *I* Warrants and did ſet my ſpringes *I* would catch theſe Woodcocks, my experience would be of great advantage, for an old Dear ſtealer is the beſt keeper of the Park, and it is not unknown to ſome of you that almoſt thirty yeares ago *I* was queſtioned about *Tranſporting* Gold and Silver, *I* diſcovered a neſt of *Tranſporters* of Gold, and the King ingaged me to do that ſervice, *I* cauſed them to be fined twenty foure thouſand one hundred pounds, in the year 1635. in the Starr Chamber, as appears by the Records, and made Alderman *Gibbs*, and Sir John *Wollaſton*, glad to Petition and pay well to the late King for their Pardons, for abuſes

abuſes done in their *Trades*, and this was the true ground of *Gibbes*, and *Wallaſtones* revenge againſt me.

When in the yeer 1643. they maliciouſly and Knaviſhly ingaged honourable Gentlemen to preſent me to the Parliament for a malignant, and to ſend me to the *Tower*, and ſequeſter my Eſtate, to my damage at this day twenty thouſand pounds, only to work their malicious ends upon me, when at that time they had *Trappaned* me, to catch me as a man catcheth a Partridg with their Lowbel, Mr. *Theophilus Rily* who decoyed me into this ſnare to undertake to bring up from *Oxford* the Letter from the Late King Charles, mentioned in this Book, Fol. 33.

And then to aggravat it againſt me with that Violence to ſome honourable members of Parliament, that it had like to coſt me my life, and *I* ſuffered almoſt four years impriſonment in the *Tower*, and had my eſtate ſequeſtred to my damage of twenty thouſand pounds as appeares in this Book, Fol. 38.

I Petitioned the late Protector *Richard for to give me and ſome others I nominated in truſt for my uſe, the grant of making a common farthing, as appeares in this booke Fol.* 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. *the late* Protector *accordingly gives me &c. the grant of the ſame for* 31. *years in part of my reward for this ſervice of ſtaying the Silver, and orders the Solicitor Generall to attend the Parliament for their Approbation, who are deſired to ordain and appoint ſuch Rules, Prohibitions, and Penalties, for the effectuall, and better management of this ſervice, the preventing of all former abuſes, and reſtraining the importation and Counterfeiting of any the ſaid farthings from the parts beyond Sea, as they*

ſhal think fit and neceſſary for the carrying on of this buſines for the good of the Common wealth, and he reſerves to the Common-wealth twelve pence out of every twenty two ſhillings.

I ſhall humbly deſire the Parliament, to give me the grant for the ſole making of a Publique farthing for 31. yeares of the value and weight aforeſaid, and I ſhall humbly and thankfully accept of this imployment as the value of five thouſand pounds towards my debt of eleven thouſand pounds, and if the Parliament pleaſe to have a farthing made lighter, yet as heavy againe as the common farthings, I ſhall make a common farthing to go currant in England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *and I will pay unto the maimed Solders five ſhillings upon every two and twenty ſhillings that is uttered in the Office, and accompt, truely upon Oath, this will be a great revenew to the maimed Solders, and I will be bound to accompt monthly to the Treaſurers of the maimed Solders, which will be about three hundred pounds a moneth for ſome years.*

By theſe waies I ſhall both pay my ſelf my eleven thouſand pounds, and be ſerviceable to the Common-wealth above an hundred thouſand pounds, in doing theſe ſervices in the Mint, and for Regulating gold and ſilver Lace, and Wyer, and ſtopping the Tranſporting of gold and ſilver, no man in the Nation hath had the experience to do it but my ſelf, and where I get one penny, the Common wealth in point of honour and profit will get twenty, the iſſue of all I humbly leave to God, and ſubmitt my ſelfe to his good Providence.

And remain Gentlemen your Bond man
till the State free me

25. *May* 1659.

THOMAS VIOLET.

15

FINIS.